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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Emergency Session on Dome of Rock

Iraq's 'Aziz Arrives in Tunis

JN1710145190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 17 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here from Rabat today at the head of an Iraqi delegation to take part in the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, which will open later today.

The emergency session of the Arab League Council, which will be convened at the request of the state of Palestine, will discuss the effects of the recent brutal massacre perpetrated by the Zionist occupation authorities against the Palestinian people in Jerusalem's al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound].

Jordanian Foreign Minister Arrives

JN1810101090 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim arrived in Tunis from Rabat this afternoon to attend an emergency session of the Arab League Council.

The session opens its meetings later today to study the dangerous situation which resulted from last week's Israeli massacre in al-Aqsa Mosque, and to discuss means of protecting Palestinians under occupation according to international conventions. Mr. al-Qasim headed the Jordanian delegation to the 13th session of the Islamic Conference Organization's Jerusalem Committee which ended its meeting in Rabat yesterday.

Delegations from Iraq and Qatar also arrived in Tunis to take part in the meetings. Arab League sources said at least nine foreign ministers will take part in the session.

Session Opens in Tunis

LD1710220190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2152 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 17 Oct (SPA)—The emergency session of the Arab League council began in Tunis today under the chairmanship of Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir, whose country is the current chairman of the Council. The crime perpetrated by Israeli occupation troops against Palestinian citizens in Jerusalem last week will be discussed at the session.

Majority Supports Palestinian Resolution

LD1810080690 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Excerpt] The Council of the League of Arab States is continuing its proceedings this morning as part of its emergency meeting which opened yesterday in Tunis at the request of the Palestinian state to consider the dangerous developments in the occupied territory, especially following the crime committed by the Zionist in Al-Aqsa' Mosque in holy Jerusalem.

Arab diplomatic sources close to the meeting said that the delegation of the State of Palestine has proposed a four-point draft resolution which has won support from a majority of the participating delegation. It comprises a call for an emergency session of the United Nations Security Council to consider the crimes committed by the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinians and the authorities' violation of international principles and laws; the imposition of sanctions against Israel; the adoption of measures to provide international protection for the Palestinian people; and the holding of an international Middle East peace conference.

The proceedings of the Arab League Council continued in camera last night for four hours. The Council charged the General Secretariat of the League to prepare a draft of the resolution to be issued by it on the basis of the Palestinian working paper and the views that were expressed by the representatives of the Arab states. [passage omitted]

'Aziz, Arab League's Lakhdar Ibrahimi Confer

JN1710155390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1247 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, 17 Oct (INA)—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister held a lengthy meeting with Assistant Arab League Secretary General Lakhdar Ibrahimi here last night.

Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, and the Iraqi ambassador in Rabat attended the meeting.

Syria To Supply Lebanon With Oil via Pipeline

NC1510124390 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Nicosia, Oct 15 (AFP)—Syria will begin later this month to pump 20,000 barrels of crude oil a day to Lebanon through a section of a pipeline that originates in Karkuk, Iraq, and ends in the Mediterranean, the Middle East Economic Survey [MEES] said Monday [15 October].

The Nicosia-based newsletter said the decision was contained in a deal signed between Lebanon and Syria earlier this month.

Under the terms of the agreement, Syria will supply the north Lebanon oil refinery at the Mediterranean port city of Tripoli with 20,000 b/d [barrels per day] for the first time since 1982.

The Karkuk-Mediterranean pipeline was shut down in 1976 following differences between Iraq and Syria over the transit dues levied on Iraqi crude oil exports from the Mediterranean terminals, said MEES.

But the pipeline was subsequently opened from 1979 until March 1982 for export from the Syrian port of Banyas and Tripoli, Lebanon.

Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif Views UN, U.S. Palestinian Policy

JN1710192490 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Oct 90

[PETRA headline: "Abu-Sharif's Press Conference]

[Text] Amman, 17 Oct (PETRA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, has said that the efforts by His Majesty King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis and to avert a destructive disaster in the region have not stopped since the beginning of the crisis. He said that the foreign military presence in the region will be the main cause of exacerbating the situation and igniting a war.

Abu-Sharif asked: Why does the United States close all doors to a political solution to the Gulf crisis while some Arab and European leaders see an opportunity for a way out of the crisis through a political solution?

He said that any war in the region will be the inevitable result of the narrow American view and that President Bush will be responsible for the results of this war.

Abu-Sharif touched on the Israeli refusal to receive the committee dispatched by the UN secretary general to the occupied territory in the wake of Security Council Resolution No. 672. He said we consider this rejection a challenge to the Security Council and the international community. We also consider the attempt to curb the mission of the committee and turn it into a police committee for investigating a crime that was committed at the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard a challenge also. The committee should present a complete report on the conditions of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and the daily terrorism practiced against them.

He added that the Security Council does not need a new report; it has a detailed report prepared by Jean-Claude Aime, the envoy of the secretary general to the occupied territory, not a long time ago. The report notes the seriousness of the situation in the occupied territory and the scope of the daily inhuman practices committed by the Israeli authorities against the citizens.

Abu-Sharif said that the UN secretary general is duty bound to call on the Security Council immediately to hold a session to safeguard the prestige of the United Nations. The Council should hold a serious discussion of the blatant Israeli challenge to the Security Council resolution and issue a resolution on the practical steps to be taken to protect the Palestinian people—such as the dispatch of UN forces to protect this people from the violence, terrorism, and tyranny to which they are exposed every day.

Abu-Sharif called on the Security Council to adopt effective sanctions against Israel if it continues to reject international resolutions and challenge international will and law. He said it is a real test for the big countries, especially the United States, whose President declared that no state should expect toleration of its refusal to implement Security Council resolutions.

He added that we are certain that the United Nations wants to protect the Palestinian people under occupation. This desire, however, is countered by U.S. opposition, and the United States might resort to the veto against any resolution in this regard. Therefore, Abu-Sharif said, America should not expect us to stand still before the daily practices of killing unarmed people and children in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. He added that there are problems awaiting America if it insists on adopting a double-standard toward the problems of the region.

Abu-Sharif pointed out that the present situation unmistakably proves that the United States is treating Security Council resolutions with a clear double-standard policy and two contradictory faces. For, while putting its full weight behind implementing resolutions that were issued a few months ago, it turns its back on resolutions issued 23 years ago and grants Israel the political and financial support to consolidate occupation. Perhaps its recent decision to grant the Zionist entity $400 million to set up new settlements is the best evidence of what we have said.

Abu-Sharif said that the United Nations' call for an international conference to resolve the problems of the region is mandated by new local and international developments, and that linking the issues of the region does not complicate them, as some claim, especially since the UN and Security Council resolutions on the problems of the region are similar in their circumstances and the results they seek.

He explained that the PLO has not made a decision on the partial use of arms in the occupied territories to enable the Palestinians to defend themselves. He added, however, that such a decision could be made later if the United Nations and the Security Council fail to take measures to protect the Palestinian people.

Answering a question on Israel's use of the Palestinian citizens as a pretext [as received] to increase its arbitrariness and crimes, he said that Israel does not need justifications and pretexts to commit mass-killing crimes. He added that what happened so far confirms that Israeli violence is linked to expansionist Zionist schemes, and not to the given circumstances of any event.

Replying to a question on statements made by Yasir 'Arafat concerning the stepping-up of the intifadah at this stage, he remarked that the strategy of the intifadah is based on a number of stages, and that each stage has its own circumstances and conditions. He recalled that the Palestine National Council announced in its recent meeting that we are on the threshold of a new stage through which we will declare that Israeli escalation of repression would solidify the Palestinian people and

strengthen their spirit of steadfastness and opposition to this repression. Days to come will witness tangible escalation of resistance and struggle, he said.

Further Remarks on Use of Arms

JN1810093490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 Oct 90 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ghadir Tahir]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) warned Wednesday that it would resort to any means, including the use of arms, to defend Palestinians in the occupied territories if the international community fails to protect them.

Bassam Abu-Sharif, political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, said that if the United States blocks any resolution by the United Nations Security Council to take concrete measures to protect the Palestinians, then the PLO Executive Committee will "seriously discuss the best ways and means to defend them which might include the use of arms."

"Patience has limits and I think we have reached the limit," Abu-Sharif told a press conference. "We cannot possibly continue to watch Israeli soldiers indiscriminately shooting at our people without given them the necessary means to defend themselves," he said.

The PLO official's remarks came in the wake of Israel's massacre of over 20 Palestinians at Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem on Oct. 8 and its refusal to cooperate with a U.N. investigation into the killings as called for by Security Council Resolution 672.

Abu-Sharif said the PLO had decided to step up the resistance in the occupied territories. So far this had excluded the use of arms but it would be considered if Israel persisted in the "unprecedented use of force" and if the Security Council failed to take action, he said. The Palestinians living in the occupied territories were exerting "great pressure" on the PLO to arm them against "the organised terrorism of the Israelis," he added. [passage omitted]

"We are sure that blocking the efforts of the Security Council will result in more frustration and push the situation in the Middle East to its explosive end," Abu-Sharif warned. "And we will consider any Israeli military personnel who shoot at our people as a legal target," he said. [passage omitted]

He dismissed suggestions that arming the Palestinian people would only result in more violence and deaths. "Israel does not need any excuse to escalate the violence," he said. [passage omitted]

'Abbas Warns of 'Strong Reactions' to U.S. Acts

JN1710190490 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1755 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct (INA)—Abu-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], leader of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has reiterated his support for the initiative launched by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in August regarding simultaneous solutions to all regional problems and ensuring the withdrawal of Zionist troops from Arab territories.

In an interview with the newspaper LITERATURNAYA GAZETA published in Moscow today, Abu-'Abbas said the Palestine question has acquired an added momentum now more than ever before. The PLF leader said that the whole Palestinian people stand with Iraq in its confrontation of the U.S.-Zionist conspiracy against the present and future of the Arab nation.

Abu-'Abbas warned that any U.S. aggression on Iraq will elicit strong reactions whose dimensions are hard to imagine inside and outside the region. He accused the United States of being the arch terrorist in the world, as it is the party that threatens peoples with bombs, missiles, and weapons of mass destruction. In this regard, he said that the word terrorism, which imperialism and Zionism use to brand freedom fighters who are seeking independence and defending justice, has entered the dictionary thanks to the Americans who perpetrated acts of terrorism in Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, and Lebanon. He added that terrorism is currently epitomized by the buildup of U.S. troops in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] and the economic measures imposed on Iraq. It is similarly embodied in the daily killings of Palestinians in the occupied territories.

PLO Says U.S. Obstructing UN Resolutions

JN1010163390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1550 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 10 Oct (INA)—The PLO has declared its categorical rejection of any draft resolution that might be passed by the UN Security Council [UNSC] that does not provide international protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, or that does not call for an international peace conference.

In a statement here today, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, said that the State of Palestine has asked the EC, the Nonaligned Movement member states, the USSR, and the PRC to support these Palestinian demands for a provision in the draft UNSC resolution calling for protecting the unarmed Palestinians and convening an international peace conference.

'Abd-Rabbuh added that the state of Palestine has appealed to His Holiness Pope John Paul II to make efforts to end the massacres and the violation of sanctities in the holy city [Jerusalem] and to support the demand for international protection for the Palestinian people. He held the United States fully responsible for

the obstruction of the work of the UNSC and for its failure to adopt an effective resolution on the current situation and the Zionist entity's crimes against Jerusalem and Islamic holy shrines.

Jerusalem Figures Urge Sending UN Peacekeepers

JN1010144490 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Oct 90

["Text" of appeal issued by "national institutions and figures" in Jerusalem on 8 October]

[Text] As part of the bloody chain of crimes by the Zionist enemy authorities against the sons of our Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the enemy authorities and Zionist settlers committed on the morning of Monday, 8 October 1990, a new crime when they perpetrated a shocking massacre in the courtyard of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, the first kiblah, and the third holiest shrine, causing the martyrdom of scores of persons in addition to hundreds of wounded, some of whom have sustained serious injuries. This terrible massacre, which moves people's feelings and conscience, confirms that the enemy authorities are persisting in their terrible crimes in a desperate attempt to halt the Palestinian intifadah. This massacre also confirms that the herds of criminal settlers who were shooting and arresting children enjoy official Zionist protection in their efforts to terrorize the Palestinians and prevent them from defending their holy shrines. One of the objectives behind the crime is also to deter them from demanding their legitimate national rights.

The Jerusalem holy mosque massacre and the massacres committed prior to it—massacres from which the blood has not yet dried, such as the killings in the al-Burayj camp and 'Uyun Qarah [Rishon Leziyyon]—require the peoples of the Islamic and Arab nation to come to the rescue. Similarly, these massacres require the forces that love peace, justice, and democracy, as well as international organizations, humanitarian, and legal bodies to act immediately to end these massacres and to apply pressure to secure the dispatch of international troops to protect the unarmed citizens in the Palestinian territories.

The perpetration of these gruesome massacres and the shedding of the blood of children, women, and elderly people by the Zionist enemy at the threshold of the holiest shrines was made possible by the world's preoccupation with the Gulf crisis. Thus the Zionist enemy, which enjoys the support of the United States of America, is fulfilling the scheme to bring the Arab people to their knees, to break their strength, to consume their wealth, and to deter them from demanding their legitimate rights. The thousands of Palestinians martyred, wounded, and detained; and the infants burned by the bombs of the criminal enemy at the al-Maqasid hospital, warn against the continued flow of the river of blood because this will produce nothing but further blood and destruction. Besides, this blood threatens a regional explosion that might be caused by the blood of children and elderly people. Such a thing would be an eternal stigma shaming the enemy and the regimes that remain silent—regimes that have forsaken the holiest shrines, and the Dome of the Rock from which the Prophet ascended to heaven, and left them to be vandalized by the settlers, soldiers, and crazy bullets.

While condemning this horrifying massacre, we declare the following:

First, the need to dispatch UN peacekeeping troops to protect the lives of our citizens after the holding of an immediate emergency session [of the UN Security Council].

Second, we demand the immediate release of all detainees.

Third, we address an urgent and immediate appeal to the Arab and Islamic worlds, stressing the need to take immediate and rapid action to halt the schemes to kill our unarmed people and to protect their holy shrines.

We urge the Arab and Islamic nations to come to the rescue of the al-Aqsa Mosque and the sanctities. Glory and eternity to our righteous martyrs. Long live our glorious intifadah. No to Zionist repression. It is a revolution until victory.
[Signed] The national institutions and figures in Jerusalem
[Dated] 8 October 1990

Editorial Denounces Hurd's 'Double Standards'

LD1710210190 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Under the headline Hurd: "You Are Unwanted Among Us," AL-NAHAR, which appears in occupied Jerusalem, said in its editorial: It was not surprising for us, we the steadfast sons of the Palestinain people in the occupied Arab territories to hear the statements of the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd that he objects strongly to the establishment of a Palestinian state west of river Jordan, and that he is not enthusiastic about the PLO, and that Israel should show interest in finding an alternative leadership from among the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Thus declared Hurd in our home, without any consideration for our feelings and aspirations, that he does not recognize our people's natural right to choose its representatives and establish its state on its national soil. He denies our legitimate rights while he is among us and at a time when our people are mourning their martyrs who fell on the land of the blessed al-Aqsa mosque on tragic monday.

We thought that Hurd would console us in these days, and here he is rubbing the wound with salt, as though he came to add to our pain. Our people have become firmly convinced for a long time that Britain, represented in its Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher harbors for our people and the Arab nation open hostility, and stands in the ranks of those who oppose the rights of the Arab peoples and all the weak peoples, justifying its hostile attitude with the pretext of maintaining a balanced stand

betwen the Arabs and Israel. In reality it is biased in favor of Israel to a large extent.

In his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Hurd begged him to receive the Security Council delegation even if Israel persisted in rejecting UNSC 672 resolution. Hurd even went further, as though he was apologizing for the resolution and was merely asking Shamir that Israel should cooperate with the delegation in any form it sees fit.

This is double standards. When the matter concerns the Gulf these days, or the Falklands a few years before, Britain behaved as it were the custodian of humanity and international law. But when the matter concerns fact-finding in relation to the bitter events of the al-Aqsa, Britain strives in alliance with the United States to empty the Security Council resolution from its content, so that it does not constitute a condemnation of Israel. Hurd, in his talks with Shamir, urged Israel to pretend to cooperate with the Security Council delegation.

We should realize an important fact: that Britain has conspired from the start of this century to this day against our Arab nation. It strives to have a role in dominating the Arab region in alliance with the United States. The massing of its forces in the Gulf and its urging of Washington to go for the military option is aimed at achieving its objectives: the destruction of the Arab will, bringing Iraq to is knees, and controling the whole region.

We did not ask Hurd to come to our homeland in order to return from where he came. The elegent British diplomatic language no longer fools us. We are fully aware of what Britain is planning. What pains us more than any other thing is that disputes in the Arab home have opened a gap in this home for the foreign forces to enter the Arab arena and spread destruction in it. What is required here, in order to defeat these foreign plans and conspiracies, is rapid work to close this gap from which the Arab body bleeds today. This is the only way of recovering our dignity and preventing aggression against our nation and sanctities.

Commentary Views Hurd's 'Hypocrisy' on Legitimacy

JN1810072990 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1853 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The smart British foreign secretary, Douglas Hurd, advised the Zionist occupation leaders to adopt his magic solution to evade the burden of their refusal to deal with the fact-finding committee recommended by Resolution 672 on the holy al-Aqsa massacre. Hurd told the Zionist occupation leaders: Reject the UN Security Council resolution, but, at the same, agree to receive the fact-finding committee. Thus, the problem will be over. The Zionist occupation leaders rejected this proposal—the outcome of Douglas Hurd's ingenuity—so he left the Zionist entity disappointed after he discovered the futility of his miserable ingenuity. To tell the truth about this British farce, the Zionist leaders maintained the Zionist principles they inherited from their buried forefather, Herzl, and did not bargain over them. In their firm response to the recent UN Security Council resolution, the Zionist leaders have been in full harmony with their arrogance, aggressiveness, and known disregard for the will of the international legitimacy when they rejected the resolution in part and parcel. For his part, Douglas Hurd looked like a stupid grandson of his cursed forefather Balfour, the author of the darkest British declaration in the history of British colonialism. He also looked like an idiot imitator of Caradon, the author of the linguistic mess which made Resolution 242 become lost between the definite article and the lack of it.

If there are words to describe Douglas Hurd after he uttered his nonsense in which he called for a compromise in dealing with Resolution 672, he should be described as foolish, blatantly hypocritical, and shameless. Otherwise, what does it mean that Doctor Hurd uses his scalpel to cut the UN resolution on the holy al-Aqsa resolution into pieces, despite its shortcomings, and then throws into the dustbin what we risk to term the only merit in this resolution, so as to reproduce it in accordance with the desires of Zionist arrogance? To this level of lowliness the British foreign secretary kneels before the Zionist leaders, as if he is actually sueing himself, nay, himself and his government for the grave fault they committed against the Zionist killers when they did not veto the UN resolution. This resolution, in the first place, would not have emerged so weak and colorless had it not been for the feverish U.S.-British attempts to defend the Zionist butchers from the law of international legitimacy.

In his fervent apologies to the Zionist leaders, smart Hurd forgot or pretended to forget how he and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher yelled day and night about the infallibility of international legitimacy, inviolability of its resolutions, sacredness of its laws, greatness of its solemnity, its super strength, and other descriptions in the U.S.-British song about international legitimacy. They overwhelmed the world with this song when they stormed the Arab nation through the Arabian Gulf.

Thus, instead of maintaining his pretended respect for international legitimacy, and even instead of avoiding talk about it before the Zionist leaders, he showed readiness to surpass those leaders on means to violate the international legitimacy and demonstrated to them his outspoken raw disrespect for its resolutions. However, he only exposed his stupidity and inexperience and his rhetoric was that of an illiterate. Thus, his ridiculous proposal to the Zionist leaders stems from the illusion that he can deceive the international legitimacy and fool the international community. This proposal has been disregarded by his Zionist hosts themselves and ridiculed by the Zionist media. Similarly, he and his government and its black colonialist history will be a target for the Palestinian stones and curse. This is a constant Palestinian stand as long as Britain is the same; a state of

defunct colonialist glory governed by mentalities which continue to live on dead illusions.

Finally, the coming days will emphatically clarify to the entire world that the U.S.-British repeated song on international legitimacy is nothing but a lie and hypocrisy to cover their imperialist crimes against the whole of mankind. In light of the U.S.-British daily hypocrisy, the international legitimacy should quickly veto the U.S.-British illegitimacy and its wrongdoings.

Effect of Gulf Crisis on UN Resolution Viewed

JN1710213890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Despite the Palestinian discontent with UN Resolution 672 issued in the wake of the bloody Monday massacre at al-Haram al-Sharif [al-Aqsa Mosque and Dome of the Rock compound] in Jerusalem on 8 October, we would like to state two extremely important points. The first is that this resolution was issued after a grueling war waged by the United states in the UN Security Council halls and back corridors where the United States employed indescribable and enormous pressures on both its major allies and the group of Nonaligned states that presented a draft resolution completely contravening the wishes of the United States. U.S. pressure reached a terrifying extent against the group of poor Nonaligned states, and it sought the help of the weakest and most opportunistic parties in this group in order to divide its positions. The U.S. threat reached the point of extortion in terms of aid and loans. Moreover, matters went as far as threats that the U.S. Administration would veto the draft resolution. The United States, however, failed to turn its major allies into a replica of itself despite the incentives and temptations of the new international order in which all these parties are involved.

Thus, every party maintained a margin of difference in stands so they would be able to open bridges, especially for their interests in this vital and sensitive region of the world. In this regard, we must refer positively to the French stand, which was stated by French President Francois Mitterrand in his UN speech, and whose line was later maintained by the French foreign minister and other officials. As for the Nonaligned group—which comprises the Arab states group, the Latin American states group, members of the OAU, and the Asian states—most of its member states held firm in face of the enormous U.S. pressure, and the group maintained the unity of its position during the debates and maneuvers in the back corridors. In this regard, we must also refer positively to the effective Yemeni role, which was very well represented on the Arab level by brother 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, the Yemeni representative to the Security Council and representative of the Arab group for this term. His continuing efforts and brilliant dynamism had an extremely important effect in closing the ranks of the Arab and Nonaligned groups, and silencing the discord that tried to evade their declared obligations.

The second point is that the Gulf crisis cast some positive shadows during the fervent debates at the UN Security Council for more than four days leading to the resolution. Despite its weakness from our point of view, the resolution is against the U.S.-Zionist view. The positive shadows that clearly appeared during the debates at the UN Security Council prove beyond doubt that the call to link these two issues is not an arbitrary one, as some are trying to imply, but it is an objective one stemming from the requirements of the supreme pan-Arab interest and from the requirements of strategic defense for Arab identity and the entire Arab order, including the interest and existence of the Gulf states themselves and safeguarding them against continued U.S. and Western extortion. It has also proved that this linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question has been practically and realistically understood by the big powers themselves, including the Soviet Union, France, China, Britain, and even the United States itself, in addition to the other European states. We say this linkage has been practically and realistically understood by these states in view of their future visions, the volume of their interests, and their speculations about future interactions. Perhaps the vital example that embodies the strength of this objective linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question was clearly and effectively reflected in the U.S. actions during the debates. The United States threatened to use the veto, which it used against resolutions less sensitive than Resolution 672 and less harmful to its primary ally, Israel, on this recent resolution. How can we interpret U.S. behavior? The interpretation is crystal clear: The link between the Gulf crisis and Palestine is crystal clear; it exists in the minds of all parties, and it exists in the core of the interests and policies of these parties in the region. The United States feared that the use of the veto might lead to the splitting of its international alliance on the Gulf crisis and to the collapse of its Arab alliance in the Gulf crisis.

So far, we can say that are now more knowledgeable about the way the conflict is being steered and that we have gone through a successful experience. The objective requirements of success exist and can be doubled, consolidated, and pushed forward in our long struggle. Can we say now that Palestinian blood and the link between the Gulf crisis and the Palestine question have provided us with a new beginning that we can develop, build on, and start from to rearrange our Arab priorities to achieve further success? Do we really have this new beginning? Shall we be faithful to it and employ for its sake our real Arab resources? Shall we end our uncalled-for disagreement and bridge the gaps in our Arab wall? Many Arab parties, headed by the PLO, have proposed a new Arab beginning based on an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis—a solution that is not detached from the world we live in and from the conflict of powers and interests, an Arab solution based on Islamic and international support and

calling for withdrawal of foreign forces to be replaced by Arab forces with Islamic and international support. Afterward, an inter-Arab dialogue could start. Such a dialogue should seriously take into consideration the interests of others in this world and the vagaries of world changes from the point of view of defending Arab identity, interests, and the existence of an Arab order capable of coping with the changes, developments, horizons, and the interests of the age.

The focal point is that the Palestine question is not only one of rights, justice, and conscience, but it is a question whose continuation constitutes a source of comprehensive threat to our land, people, and culture. We are not making speculations, but the enemies' explicit words and direct acts prove that. The Palestine question, if it remains as it is, constitutes a comprehensive depletion for our economic, social, political, and cultural life. This depletion must be stopped. The Palestine question has instigated five wars—in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982, and has created many tensions and problems. Its repercussions have reached the nuclear reactor in Iraq, the Hammam al-Chatt in Tunisia, and the current Gulf crisis itself. The Palestine question is the source of an inextinguishable fire, and it is the source of ceaseless crises. So, why should the Arabs waste an opportunity for a possible solution? Certainly, what was considered impossible in the past is now possible, and what was categorically rejected in the past is now a topic of dialogue among the big powers themselves. Even our primary enemies cannot keep every window closed. So why should the Arab side be hesitant, intransigent, arrogant, and proud of sins [words indistinct] this new beginning. Does not the Jerusalem blood illuminate the dark corners of our Arab spirit, and should not the martyrs of the al-Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem constitute a bridge for a new Arab relationship? Let us hope so. We faithfully pray that this will be achieved, because the alternative is horrible. The alternative is the absence, and even the death, of a nation without any price. Then, it will not be useful to say that this Arab side was right, and that Arab side was wrong.

Greeting to Jerusalem martyrs and greeting to Jerusalem, the constant glory of our times. Jerusalem was the first beginning, so will it constitute a new Arab beginning?

OPEC Affairs

IEA Rejects Calls for Intervention

BK1710121390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 17 Oct 90

[By Endy Bayuni]

[Text] Jakarta, Oct 17 (AFP)—The International Energy Agency (IEA), the oil watchdog of western industrialised countries, on Wednesday rejected OPEC appeals for intervention to help stabilise world petroleum markets. IEA countries were ready to act, however, if the current oil problem deteriorated, IEA Executive Director Helga Steeg said.

"The current world crude oil markets are still adequately supplied and no product shortfalls have been experienced by IEA member countries to date," Mrs. Steeg said in a speech read for her to an energy seminar here. Oil markets were "very nervous" and the situation "manageable but not comfortable," she said.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has appealed to the Paris-based IEA to release its huge strategic reserves to ease market pressures. Oil prices passed the 40 dollar-a-barrel barrier last week, rising from less than 20 dollars before the August 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

On Tuesday, OPEC ministers from Algeria, Nigeria, Venezuela and Indonesia criticised the IEA's failure to act and called for a dialogue with the IEA for cooperation in managing the oil markets. The ministers, who were attending the seminar here, said the agency should release its strategic stocks so that prices would be brought under control before winter in the northern hemisphere brings increased demand.

The IEA, which comprises 21 of the 24 members of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, holds more than one billion barrels in emergency stocks. The amount is in addition to stocks held by private oil companies in IEA member countries currently put at 67 days of consumption.

Mrs. Steeg said that following a meeting of the IEA governing board late last month, the member countries "have, so to say, their finger on the button and are ready to undertake stock draw and/or demand restraint measures immediately if additional shortfalls develop."

She said, however, that she expected oil companies to draw from their stocks at the rate of 1.5 million barrels a day this quarter and 1.3 million barrels in the next, leaving them with reserves for 65 days at the end of winter.

Mrs. Steeg also appeared to rule out direct dialogues between IEA member governments and OPEC, saying that the market was the best mechanism to regulate supply, demand and prices. "The dialogue should be between the producers and those who buy their oil," she said. "Cordial business relations between seller and buyers offer the best assurance for meeting the world's oil needs."

Mrs. Steeg said the IEA was not unconcerned about the impact of high oil prices on developing countries, but said this was a problem for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to solve. The IEA, she said, "was not created as a financial institution, but rather as an energy watchdog.

"If necessary, it can become an oil supply traffic policeman. It would however not be appropriate to use it as a petroleum central bank." OPEC Secretary General

Subroto warned in his presentation to the seminar that further delays in releasing IEA oil stocks could make it difficult to keep prices "within reasonable bounds."

The perception of adequate oil supplies was deceiving because the world was actually facing a shortage of between 1.5 million and 1.8 million bpd in the current quarter, he said. OPEC had already increased its production as much as possible to make up for the loss of output from Iraq and Iraqi-occupied Kuwait, which are under a U.N. trade embargo, Mr. Subroto said.

"The ball is now in the consumers' court," he said, adding that he found their attitude to sit the problem out "incomprehensible." "They seem to be waiting for the horse to bolt before they close the stable door," he said.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Six Muslim States Ask Saddam To Quit Kuwait

BK1610135390 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 16 (AFP)—Six non-Arab moslem countries Tuesday [16 October] appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to quit Kuwait and ensure peace in the Middle East, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan said here. "We have instructed our ambassador in Baghdad, M.R. 'Uthmani, to hand over the appeal at the highest possible level," Mr. Ahsan told reporters.

He said the call, initiated by Bangladesh about one month ago, was backed by Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Pakistan and the Maldives. Asked why it took one month to formulate the appeal, Mr. Ahsan said, "the issue is a complex, sensitive and difficult one and was carried out after consultations with the concerned parties."

He said Dhaka hoped that it would help other efforts to restore peace in the region, including the United Nations Security Council resolutions. "We hope the appeal will have an effect on the Iraqi leadership," he added.

The joint statement called on the Iraqi president to withdraw his forces from Kuwait. "We commit ourselves to contribute in every way possible to efforts at peacefully settling any outstanding contentious issues between Iraq and Kuwait," the statement said.

"We earnestly hope that in the true Islamic spirit and for the unity and solidarity of the ummah (unity) our call will receive a positive response from President Saddam Husayn," it added.

It said the signatory countries were distressed about the "invasion and subsequent illegal annexation" of Kuwait, saying it has led to a deteriorating situation in the Middle East, already under "continued Israeli occupation of Palestine."

The heads of state or government of the six Asian countries called on Mr. Husayn to withdraw his troops from Kuwait in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions and to restore the legitimate government of the emirate. Mr. Ahsan said the appeal could help "open a dialogue" and the foreign ministers of the six countries would meet if needed.

The foreign secretary said the Asian countries took the joint intiative because they believed it was their obligation as the largest combined Moslem population. Bangladesh Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has engaged in shuttle diplomacy without prior announcement to organize the appeal, flying to five capitals in a Saudi Government aircraft after meeting King Fahd last month.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad also exchanged views on the appeal with his counterparts in the five countries, sources said. Asked if ambassadors of other countries were also giving the appeal to Iraqi authorities, Mr. Ahsan said it was approved at the highest level and because of a shortage of time the modalities of presenting the appeal could not be worked out.

He added, however, that Dhaka's proposal for the intiative met with "warm and spontaneous response" from the other countries. Mr. Ahsan said the countries had agreed to announce the appeal to the press simultaneously.

Algeria

Transport Workers Refuse To Unload French Ship

JN1610155890 Baghdad INA in English 1450 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Algiers, Oct. 16, INA—Workers at the Algiers port refused to unload cargo of the French ship—Napoleon—that had reached it from French port of Marseille today because of her taking part in transferring French military units to the Arab gulf region.

Mr. Geatly Belqassem chairman of the Algerian transport and communications trade union and member of the General Secretariat of Arab transport workers told INA that the measure came owing to participation of the liner Napoleon in the hostile action and massing up the Western troops against Iraq.

He has further said that workers of the port will not permit unloading her cargo of cars and other commodities and also will not permit the passengers on board of it to disembark in the Algerian ports.

He has also pointed out that workers of the Algerian ports will apply this measure of abstaining from receiving all the ships that have taken part in tranferring soldiers and military supplies to the Arab Gulf region.

Ben Bella Not To Run in Election

LD1710115290 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1815 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Studio interview with former President Ahmed Ben Bella, by correspondent Youssouf Tahar, in the 'Transparence' phone-in program—live]

[Excerpts] [Ben Bella] [passage omitted] If I were to come back into power—I have already talked about this, I am not going to dwell on that. I am not interested in coming to power. I shall not make a comeback, I shall not run in the presidential elections. What I hope for is that Algeria gets back on its feet again. I will always help the workers and I will help to establish a strong trade union organization.

[Tahar] So, you have just announced something new here?

[Ben Bella] What?

[Tahar] You are not a candidate.

[Ben Bella] I will not be a candidate if we move toward elections normally, in a democratic move toward elections. I think there will have to be presidential elections sooner or later. And I will not be a candidate.

[Tahar] If we proceed normally?

[Ben Bella] If we proceed normally. I think we should leave it to others, the young, to run as candidates. As I have said, if there was a dangerous situation, if I was asked to stand in for a transition period, if there was an exceptional situation. I hope this will not be, I would like us to continue on our path and complete the process. This is my heart-felt desire. And this is what encouraged me to return home. I have worked relentlessly so that we can go forward with the election. But if I were asked to preside over a transition, a transition for a few months, a year [words indistinct] only. There we are. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified caller] I would like to ask a question of Mr. Ben Bella who in 1962, 1963, and 1964 was a defender of oppressed peoples like those in Angola, Mozambique, etc. Recently I was shocked by a statement in which he practically denies the right of self-determination to the Saharan people. What is his position on this decolonization problem?

[Ben Bella] My position concerning the problem of Sahara is that, yes there should be self-determination for a people. But I note this: We have waged an ongoing war for the past 14-15 years, an undeclared war in the name of a principle, that is the principle of self-determination granted to 70,000 Saharans and yet denied to 25 million Algerians. I don't understand this. Having said this, I think a negotiated solution is necessary. I think the Saharans have the right to self-determination on their territory. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Delegation Leaves for Baghdad

LD1810090390 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] An Algerian parliamentary delegation, let by Abdelaziz Belkhadem, left for the Iraqi capital Baghdad yesterday to take part in the Arab Parliamentary Union council's meeting, which is being convened in an emergency session. During the session, Arab parliamentarians will study the situation in the Middle East.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Cooperation With Gulf States

NC1710151390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that there is cooperation between Egypt and the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other fraternal Gulf states in all areas. Mubarak was responding to a question from MENA on whether there is economic cooperation between Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He made this statement after meeting today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal for approximately two hours.

Newspaper Labels Husayn Saddam's 'Accomplice'

NC1810084790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR criticizes Jordan's King Husayn, saying that he has presented world public opinion with a bad

image of an Arab leader whom some people had believed to be good and worthy of respect.

In its editorial today, commenting on King Husayn's interview with THE NEW YORK TIMES, the paper says that the Jordanian monarch at last found the inner courage to admit publicly that Saddam Husayn had informed him a month in advance of the plot to invade Kuwait and occupy its territory. It adds that King Husayn believed that through this interview he was defending his shameful stand on an action which has been condemned by the entire world; namely, the aggression against an independent Arab country. It says that, as all jurists attest, the mere knowledge that a crime will be committed makes one an accomplice and as guilty as the actual perpetrator.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that the most amazing but ridiculous aspect of the Jordanian king's defense of his ally and partner, the tyrant of Baghdad, was his description of Saddam Husayn as a new phenomenon in the Arab political world. It says that it would have been more appropriate for King Husayn to describe his friend as a new phenomenon in world politics, not only Arab politics, because the world has never before seen the ruler of any state, no matter how powerful, act in such a reckless and rash manner and turn his Army into a gang of thieves, butchers, and rapists.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says: Let the Jordanian king—who readied himself to receive his share of the spoils of his ally's adventures by calling himself al-Sharif Husayn—enjoy the friendship of the one of whom he is proud to be a friend.

Anti-Saddam Committee Sees Signs of 'Crisis'

NC1710182390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1357 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 17 (MENA)—The National Committee for the Salvation of Iraq has stated that recently there have been signs of a crisis between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and a number of his henchmen and stooges, above all Husayn Kamil Majid, minister of industry and military industrialization, who wields absolute power.

In a statement delivered to MENA today, the committee says that the crisis first surfaced in December when an Iraqi rocket designed to reach outer space was launched. The rocket exploded, however, moments after it was launched. This caused Saddam Husayn to pour his wrath out on Majid, whose departments could not develop the rocket's aiming devices despite billions of dollars spent on research.

The statement ridicules Saddam Husayn's claims that these rockets will be used against Israel at a time when he has done Israel a great service, about which it had not even dreamt throughout his war against Iran and then his occupation of Kuwait.

The statement stresses that if Saddam Husayn is sincere in his claims against Israel, he must choose another course more useful than his lousy rockets, such as the weapon of Arab solidarity and the revival of the eastern front.

The statement says that the General Staff and the Iraqi Military Command have discovered that the Iraqi people's money has been misappropriated. This money was to have been used for the purchase of spare parts, maintenance equipment, and military industrialization plants. Instead, only assembly centers have been bought, and as a result there is a serious shortage of spare parts. This has adversely affected the Army's performance and curtailed Air Force flying hours, especially in light of the current economic blockade against Iraq.

Paper Views U.S. Stand on Al-Aqsa Resolution

NC1810100290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 18 Oct 90

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM comments on the U.S. stand regarding the recent Jerusalem incidents. Under the headline "mutual dilemma," the paper says: The Israeli massacre in the courtyard of the al-Aqsa Mosque was a great embarrassment to the United States, Israel's traditional ally. It can be said that Washington narrowly escaped the Israeli trap and was forced to make some concessions to the Arabs, which is something quite unusual, if not unprecedented. America has endorsed a compromise UN Security Council resolution. The resolution, passed unanimously, calls for the UN secretary-general to send an investigative committee [to Israel] to examine the situation and make recommendations.

Angered by the U.S. position, which placed it in a tight spot, Israel refused to receive the UN committee. Washington itself was put in a difficult situation, for it did not want to be seen as applying different standards when dealing with the Arabs or Iraq and with Israel.

It can be said that the United States, through its initial strong resistance to the Arab draft resolution, partially met Israel's expectations. The United States did, however, stop short of vetoing the final version of the UN Security Council resolution.

New Israeli Ambassador Arrives, Makes Statement

NC1710063090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2317 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 16 Oct (MENA)—Efrayim Dubek, Israel's new ambassador to Egypt, arrived in Cairo tonight to take up his post. He succeeds Ambassador Moshe Shamir who resigned.

In an arrival statement, Dubek expressed his pleasure at being in Egypt, noting that he was born and spent his childhood in Egypt and speaks Arabic fluently.

He praised Egypt's firm stand on peace in the Middle East and said that Egypt remains a key element in the establishment of a comprehensive peace in the region, especially as Egypt's commitment to peace is firm and certain. This, he added, has been apparent in the 10 years since the Camp David accord was signed.

Asked about (?the holding of an international conference) on peace in the Middle East, he said there are numerous issues that must be settled before such a conference can be held. Once these issues are settled, holding the conference becomes a matter of form.

Further Commentary on Al-Mahjub Assassination

Article Urges Deterrent Vengeance

JN1610115890 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 14 Oct 90 p 5

["Egyptian Contemplations" by 'Ali al-Dali: "The Second Martyr of Democracy"]

[Text] By all standards, Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub can be viewed as the second martyr of democracy in Egypt. The first was leader Anwar al-Sadat. The democratic system which the humble President Husni Mubarak is currently safeguarding and protecting is a civilized system based on the cultural reconstruction of Egypt under conditions of peace and internal security.

This system came into being in the wake of a great national liberation war, after the expulsion of the colonizers and on the heels of the great leaps made by Egyptian nationalism toward the construction of this dear homeland away from tension and the specter of war.

Likewise, we should know that this regime is not a satellite regime. That is, this regime does not rotate in the orbit of any external forces as the dictatorial ['Abd-al-Nasir] regime rotated in the Soviet orbit.

Many people might have had differences of opinion on political issues with Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, the martyr of democracy. These, however, were honorable differences that sought the nation's interests. They were not personal differences nor were they differences that had suspect objectives. They were differences of opinion. Rif'at al-Mahjub was capable of holding a dialogue with those who had opinions different from his. This was one of the admirable traits of the educated politician Rif'at al-Mahjub. Rif'at al-Mahjub always tolerated dissenting voices. He never threatened or imposed his opinion through the use of his legislative powers. He managed the People's Assembly sessions with awareness, understanding, and realization of the sensitivities of the phase and the difficulties of the national march.

I might be one of those who differed with Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub in his political beliefs and concepts. But what would be the meaning of democracy if there were no opposition or dissenting voices? When conflicting opinions interact, the nation's interest emerges and the sound opinion that must be adopted as a democratic solution to the homeland's problems appears. All of these problems are complicated. Hence they require constant and continuous dialogue.

But when this dialogue is interrupted by the firing of bullets, the people's forces, regardless of their political colorings, should be mobilized to deter the enemies of democracy who attempted by their bullets to effect a retreat and a return to the dictatorial system of government, to halt the dialogue, and to keep the people away from the political decisionmaking in the country.

The assassination of Rif'at al-Mahjub should teach us a lesson, whether the lowly assassin was an Egyptian, or an agent of a savage dictatorial Arab organization conspiring to make Egypt go back on its pioneering cultural role in the region.

Terrorism is not that adept and powerful. A terrorist is like a thief who only attacks his target after he ensures that the road is safe, that the eyes are sleepy, and that there are no vigilant guards in place.

Democracy in Egypt might have encouraged terrorism by its constant tolerance toward and sometimes attempts at reconciliation with terrorism. Is it not strange that terrorism has filtered through our borders and begun to live with us and exist among us as if Egypt had become a firing range to pave the way for the killing of Egyptians? Terrorists are moving in broad daylight in the center of the city in which the security forces are being deployed. We must address a question in this regard to the government. If the government does not have a convincing answer to this question, an answer that would make the people rest assured on the twin issues of security and peace, which party is supposed to answer this question? The government has a responsibility in this regard. Besides, it would be useful for government firmness to appear under such circumstances. The government must be firm enough to deter terrorism in its dens. This firmness must, in the end, make terrorism retreat, diminish, and surrender. The firmness of the government is the deterrence which is difficult to broach. The Egyptian on the street has begun to pose questions regarding yesterday's crime. Do not say that Cairo has a population of over 10 million people. Terrorism only moves when it receives the go-ahead sign. The go-ahead in this regard is the absence of firm deterrence which should deal the severest and heaviest blows. I think that the Egyptian Government is capable of demonstrating this deterrence. Egypt is strong. Hence, the Egyptian Government should manifest this strength.

An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, and he who initiates injustice is the most villainous.

Will law enforcement measures actually deter terrorism? Or should the iron fist be met by a similar iron fist? If some were to argue that law enforcement will be our weapon in facing the immigrant terrorism [al-irhab al-wafid] committed by non-Egyptians, then we would like to say that this weapon is dented. Otherwise, why does it,

despite the enforcement of the law, go unpunished after a few crimes endangering the country's security and stability were perpetrated? We have around us gangs upholding the banners of Arabism and Islam which seek to set Egypt, the bastion of Arabism and Islam, ablaze. Are we to face these gangs with law enforcement measures or with a fatal and deadly blow?

The firmness of the country should be the weapon of national deterrence right now.

The firmness of the country is not shown by law enforcement measures. No, it is shown by the existence of a firm and vigilant government which is feared by every cowardly killer and outlaw. Such a government should make cowardly killers and outlaws think a thousand times before moving toward their targets.

The people right now are demanding the liquidation of the local and immigrant dens of terrorism, not by law enforcement measures but rather by a demonstration of the spirit of Egyptian nationalism which is now threatened by the enemies of the law. As a matter of fact, Saddam Husayn's position vis-a-vis mankind requires us to deal ruthlessely with his delegates and messengers, demonstrating the harshest means of oppression and immediate deterrence, because we are faced with a dangerous epidemic that can only be remedied by incendiary material, not law enforcement provisions.

One more thing, Egypt is not incapable of avenging its dead. Vengeance is sanctioned in God's holy book. A deterring punishment that should frighten and terrorize expatriate terrorists is a prerequisite.

But if the criminal were to be an Egyptian living in our midst, then a swift and firm decision to liquidate the centers and dens from which these killers emerge is inevitable. Liquidation here would not be an undemocratic act. As a matter of fact, this liquidation of the centers of terrorism in Egypt would be a measure designed to safeguard democracy and the march of construction in Egypt.

If we were to retreat before terrorism, this would strengthen its arm. But if we were to sever its arm, we would paralyze it. Likewise, the country would show its firmness. The reference here is to the country fostering democracy. It is the responsibility of the country to protect democracy from its enemies, the advocates of terrorism who are carrying out terrorist acts in the name of religion or in the name of the scoundrel [Saddam Husayn] and his gangs, who pose threats to the Arab nation.

If the democratic Egyptian country does not mobilize all of its forces to liquidate the immigrant and local terrorism as soon as possible, Egypt will be in grave danger. And then the following question will be posed: Would those who assassinated Rif'at al-Mahjub have had the courage to perpetrate their crime in the center of Cairo in broad daylight and amidst people and security guards had it not been for their conviction and belief that democracy would protect them and that they would not be confronted by force but by law enforcement measures?

The government is responsible for the security of laymen. The issue acquires added significance when it concerns the assassination of a senior state official along with his bodyguards. How could this security cordon have been breached so easily?

It is obvious that the criminals planned their crime and that they were privy to the daily itinerary of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub. Otherwise, how could they manage to await his arrival at this place outside the Semiramis Hotel? The assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub was committed on the state's official weekly holiday. How did the culprits know that Rif'at al-Mahjub would leave his residence on this Friday at a specific time and that he would head for the Meridian Hotel for an official appointment that would not normally be made public? This is a mere question posed by the average Egyptian.

One more question; how could the culprits escape so easily, considering that the area in which the attack was carried out in the center of the town was crowded with guards and that the outlets could have been blocked through the use of radios within minutes?

Yes, how could this happen?

This is a mere question asked to prevent terrorism from having a free hand in the name of democracy.

AL-AHRAR Column Offers Advice

JN1710172490 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 15 Oct 90 pp 1, 6

["Opposition Opinion" column by Liberal Socialist Party Leader Mustafa Kamil Murad: "Al-Mahjub and the Condemned Assassination"]

[Text] Egypt has been alarmed by the assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the People's Assembly, and four of his bodyguard and police officers, by a professional terrorist group. The assassination was very well planned since all members of the group were able to escape, despite the crowded area of the Qasr al-Nil bridge and the Semiramis Hotel.

This serious incident in which the former speaker of the People's Assembly, that is, the number-two man in Egypt, was the victim, cannot pass without highlighting its political significance. In other words, we should show its intricacies, the events that preceded it, and the events that will follow it. However, the issue is more than the assassination of a prominent politician.

In order to highlight the incident on the political level and to show the political motives that made such gangs commit this regrettable and painful incident, we should review the following:

First: We are all aware that there are extremist groups among the youth whose extremism stems from their feeling

of political emptiness. In other words, these groups have no faith in the ability of any of the political parties—the ruling party and opposition parties—to solve the problems of the homeland, particularly the problems of poverty, from which more than half of Egypt's young people, particularly university students, are suffering. We have warned about this in articles and speeches in Parliament. We have concentrated on the fact that the remedy to extremism is free and open political dialogue, using every means to improve the financial situation of university students, and offering job opportunities to the hundreds of thousands of educated youths so they have peace of mind and confidence about their future. The Liberal Party was the first party to begin weekly dialogue with Islamic groups, in open sessions for two consecutive years between 1985-1987. The Liberal Party was able to convince the leaders of some Islamic groups to embark on legitimate political work in their offices and newspapers within the framework of political parties. Some of them have run for the People's Assembly and won in the name of the party; they have begun to practice legitimate political activity in the field of monitoring and legislation in Parliament. However, I regret to say that the efforts of the political parties, including the National Party, were limited, and consequently had little effect in remedying extremism in Egypt.

Second: The Government began to concentrate on using security methods in resisting extremism. Politically, we do not oppose the use of security methods to safeguard discipline, individual liberties, and the respect of law. However, we believe that security methods alone cannot stop the crime, no matter how advanced these methods and how high their standard. We are confident that in Egypt there are security and police authorities of the highest standard in the world, and that some heroes among the police officers were martyred while carrying out their duties to protect security. And the latest of these were the four heroic martyrs who were the victims of the regrettable assassination of Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub.

As for the political aspect; that is, the concrete facts of Egyptian society, we believe that security methods alone, whatever their efficiency and conscientious performance, cannot control all the political crimes and assassinations that are the result of extremism. Therefore, the security apparatuses should be assisted by political means focusing on free, open dialogue among the various political parties and youths of Egypt.

Third: There is a political element from outside, especially after the Gulf crisis and Egypt's position on the crisis that conflicts with the position of some Arab countries. Therefore, the political realities we are given confirm that there is a great possibility that terrorist groups could have come to Egypt from outside to implement an extensive terrorist scheme aimed at rendering Egypt unstable and terrorizing its political leaders at the highest levels, in the hope that Egypt will alter its position on the Gulf crisis. Undoubtedly, this phenomenon should be opposed by the government, parties, and the citizens themselves so that Egypt can protect its stability and its reputation as a secure and safe country, especially since this foreign scheme undoubtedly aims at striking at the Egyptian economy through dealing a blow to tourism—one of Egypt's mainstays, whose revenues amounted to $2.5 million last year.

Fourth: Those behind this foreign scheme have chosen the time of general elections for the People's Assembly, when candidates are active and seminars and conferences are continuously held, which facilitates the schemes of terrorists. Finally, after reviewing the preliminary facts and the security situation concerning extremism in Egypt and terrorism introduced to Egypt from outside, we advise the government to do the following:

First: To tighten control, using the most modern technological means, of arrivals to Egypt from outside so as to ascertain their identity.

Second: To increase the people's awareness through the media by urging them to contribute to the mission of the security services in fighting those terrorists, providing any information about them, and opposing them with every means, so that such terrorist groups believe they are besieged by the security services and the people themselves. For terrorism starts first of all with an idea that obsesses the mind of terrorist groups, and this idea dominates them one way or another until they carry out their ugly crimes.

May God have mercy on a dear, generous friend, Dr. Rif'at al-Mahjub, and grant his sons, parents, and colleagues patience. May God protect the free, generous Egyptian people from any criminal aggression aimed at shaking the country's stability, security, and safety. God hears and answers.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Conscripts on Defense

LD1710041890 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1253 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the conscripts of the Popular Alternating Forces via closed-circuit television from Tripoli on 15 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The most serious thing that one can say about somebody is to suggest that he must be paid more so that he does not betray his country, or to encourage him to work in earnest. This is an insult to his honor and dignity. Do we have to pay you more to fight, to prevent you from betraying, and to make you more active? This turns human beings into animals, which are fed more to be better exploited. Are you linked to your country by money, food, or drink? If these are found with the enemy, will you go to the enemy? When we staged the revolution, who paid us more? It is we who offered more. We offered our heads for the sake of the revolution [applause; revolutionary slogans chanted by the conscripts] [passage omitted]

From now on the duration [of national service] will be 24 months, but you will keep your salaries and allowances. Those of you who were civil servants, have families, and are married will not be affected.

The group that comes after you—I believe it begins on 1 January—is composed of new graduates and people born in 1972. [passage omitted]

I witness high morale everywhere. So far, there are no dangers facing the country—no great dangers.

We have ahead of us the battle of Palestine. Palestine could be liberated, like South Africa. Perhaps one day the world will compel the Jews and the Palestinians to establish one state, and thereby dissolve the Israeli state. All those weapons and things would then belong to the Palestinians and the Jews. Under such circumstances, the Palestinians might constitute the majority, and a large number of Jews would emigrate, leave Palestine, and return to their own countries. The Arab element in the Arab homeland would, with the passage of time, become the dominant element; the Jews in Palestine would either become a minority or vanish altogether. This solution, the dissolution of the Israeli state, might one day be imposed by the world and the peoples would be spared armed conflict.

Or it might end after a prolonged people's war waged by the Palestinian resistance, and behind it the Arab homeland—a form of attrition and people's war that would make it impossible for the Israelis to live in Palestine. In consequence, they would emigrate and leave.

If neither of these solutions or scenarios are possible, then we would be compelled to liberate Palestine directly, in a regular form: the Arabs might march onto Palestine and liberate it, irrespective of the results, as long as the circumstances are appropriate.

Thus the liberation of Palestine is absolutely necessary, either peacefully or through war! This battle is expected; it may happen before you, or us, or everybody, from the ocean to the Gulf, and it will not discriminate between a Libyan or anyone else.

Our eastern and western borders are with Arab countries. This is largely, but not totally, due to our good fortune. That is, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Tunisia—these are Arab borders. They are assured, given that they constitute an Arab depth, Arab people, Arab territories, and Arab homeland. That is different from a state that is surrounded in every direction by protagonists. Thus to a great extent our situation is good. We are also lucky that our northern border, despite its danger and despite ambitions, is not adjacent to a foreign state. There is nearly 2000 kilometers of Mediterranean coast; that is a Libyan border that is not adjacent to a foreign state because it is the sea. [passage omitted] Our southern border was tampered with by the colonialists: at times they gave Aouzou to Chad, and at times they gave it to Libya; and at times they gave it to Libya; at times they gave N'Djamena to the Ottomans who were ruling Libya, and at times they gave it to France; at times they gave Faya [Largeau] to Libya.... The colonialists tampered with the borders, and lately played with the hirelings, and America and France intervened and created tension at the border with Libya. However, we are not in danger, as those bordering us are weak, are poor, and have no industrial capability and no base to support a war; they do not have the capability and do not constitute a danger.

To this day we have never declared war on Chad. [words indistinct] assisting Goukouni, the conflict among the Chadians; we join the side we see fit. But there was no war between Libya and Chad. It was only when they entered Aouzou that we expelled them by force, and put the case before the International Court of Justice. If it says that Aouzou belongs to Chad, we will leave it; if it says it belongs to Libya, we will remain there.

I mean, escaping or evading has no justifications. What are its justifications? It damages your dossier. [passage omitted]

In the past, perhaps in the old days, you were conscripted, and you would then ask for how long, and the answer would be for five years or 10 years. One would not know his destiny. But now it is determined by law. Twelve months means 12 months. From now on, 24 months means 24 months, except in a case when war is imminent, or there is a threat: then even those who were demobbed will be recalled.

I tell you that if something happened in the Gulf—every Libyan should understand that if something happened in the Gulf—then all reserves will be recalled, from the defenses of the Popular Alternating Forces and the previous regular army, and public military training in the defensive regions will be mobilized. All the mass institutions: peasants, workers, students, and employees who are not reservists of the Army of their region, will be reservists of the Popular Alternating Forces and will also be recalled. If anything happened in the Gulf, then we would be forced to declare general mobilization like all other countries. All the countries will declare mobilization. There would be cause for mobilization. Egypt, Turkey, and a number of countries in the world have declared it. European and Asian countries will declare mobilization, sending forces to participate in the war, because they are afraid for themselves. Therefore we will be forced, if something happened in the Gulf, to declare general mobilization, and conscript not less than one million Libyans to be ready under arms.

This is because we do not know what the developments would be. This is a dilemma. In fact, the region has been thrown into a dilemma. Iraq got itself entangled in a dilemma. Saudi Arabia got itself entangled in a dilemma. One got itself entangled through Kuwait; the other through the Americans. In the end, the consequences will be felt by all of us. There are a lot of negative things that will affect us. The enemy might move to the Mediterranean after that, to fight against Libya. These are possibilities.

When we fight, we fight within our borders and within our country. I do not think that there is a Libyan who would say: No, let us retreat, if he was fighting within the borders of Libya. If the battle is an Arab one, then the Arab borders are known, from the ocean to the Gulf. There is no Libyan or Egyptian or Tunisian or Algerian: you are an Arab, and your land is the Arab homeland. When there is a need to defend the Arab homeland, then these are our borders—the Arab homeland from the ocean to the Gulf.

The law stipulates that Libyans not suitable for the national service will not serve as soldiers in the people's alternating forces, but in other fields. I am suprised that this clause has not been applied on all Libyans, but has only been applied to you, who are fit. It was applied to those who were fit because they are conscripted for the national service for 24 months. However, the law says that Libyans who have reached that age but are not fit healthwise would be able to do the national service in other fields. I do not believe that this has been implemented. Attention has to be given to this by the General People's Congress and the General People's Committee, to submit it to the people's congresses. The people's congresses have decided; it is a matter of implementation only.

The other point is about women. The law endorsed by people's congresses gives them the choice of doing national service either in the military field or in service or production fields, on the basis of the same conditions stipulated in the national service law. This has not yet been implemented. From now on, this choice will be available, and people must choose whether they will serve as conscripts or in other fields. Libya is the country that has removed this obstacle, which was in women's way; a woman has the right to participate in ruling, administration, and in fighting. Many people have adopted this. [passage omitted]

Imagine, if only one soldier in the United States refused to go to Saudi Arabia, the whole world would have heard about it. Thousands of U.S. women have gone there to defend Mecca, and they are Christians. They said: There is a country that is friendly with us, and its name is Mecca; let us go defend it. They said that the United States has interests there. So they replied: All right, let's go defend it. [passage omitted]

Rwanda is in the heart of Africa. It is a small country, consisting of two tribes, and these two tribes are in constant conflict. Now there is a revolution there. The pro-French tribe was under the threat of being overthrown. So France sent its sons immediately to Rwanda, and told them to defend the tribe—whose name I do not know—that is pro-France.

[passage omitted] French troops rushed to fight in Rwanda, a small state, cut off and with no geographic links with France. France is in Europe and Rwanda is in the heart of Africa. We see France's sons fighting in Rwanda to defend France's interests.

Why do the Americans go to Saudi Arabia to fight, and why have they not deserted? The French are now fighting in La Reunion and New Caledonia. They said it has to do with France's interests. U.S. pilots and soldiers were ordered to raid Bab al-Aziziyah [in Tripoli] and they did, although they did not know where Bab al-Aziziyah was. They were told that the U.S. national security abroad was endangered by al-Qadhdhafi, so they came to kill al-Qadhdhafi. [passage omitted]

They tell the people in oil-rich state that the oil revenues are of no use. We say that these people are living in luxury, are keen on consumption, look only for tinned food and foreign goods, enjoy their leisures, and that they are not hardworking people. In fact, Kuwait has confirmed this. Kuwait has set an unprecedented example, which cannot be followed, because it is a bad example. For the past three days, the Kuwaitis have been meeting at a People's Congress—just like the one that exists in Libya—in Jeddah. The amir is equal to the roadsweeper at this congress.

The first thing they asked their amir was: Tell us, you have spent billions from the oil revenues on Kuwait's Army, why did this army not resist, even for 10 hours? They also told him: You did not fight at all. You have hundreds of tanks—Kuwait has indeed 300 tanks—so why? Did the 300 tanks take part in the war, and were they then destroyed? Fine, where are the missiles that were bought, even from Russia? Where are the Mirage planes—Kuwait bought the most sophisticated Mirage planes? They tried him at the congress. They asked him: Where are the weapons? If the weapons were abandoned by the soldiers after they fled, by God, it is the soldiers who are to blame; it is not your fault. If they were destroyed, there was nothing you could do, the enemy was stronger and destroyed these weapons. But the Army did not fight at all. Where did it go? they asked the Amir; and where is the money you spent on weapons? He replied by saying that the intercontinental missiles which Kuwait brought from the Soviet Union were given to Iraq, when it was fighting Iran. That is true. Kuwait gave its intercontinental missiles to Iraq for its war effort against Iran. They asked him: Where is the air defense?

He then brought forward Colonel or Major General Yaqub Du'aysh, retired commander of the [Kuwaiti] Air Force, and now contractor, to reply. He told them: On orders from the amir I dismantled the missiles of the air defense forces and gave them to Iraq to help it in its war against Iran." He added: I retired after the efforts I made with Iraq, because I was busy arranging the transfer of intercontinental and anti-aircraft missiles to Iraq. They told him: You should have given Iraq only money, and you should not have dismantled the missiles to give them to Iraq. Now Iraq attacked you with your own missiles. He went on to say: This is an Arab and a brother, and I helped him in his war, and I never thought he would attack me. To that, they asked: But where are the other weapons? Where are the tanks, the guns, the machine guns, the Kalashnikov assault rifles, the U.S. M-60 rifles,

and all the other rifles you bought? Indeed, he could not give an answer to many questions.

The conclusion is that the people in an oil-rich state do not fight. Others come to take their oil, their country, their land, their dignity, their rifles, and everything they possess—including their clothes—as has happened in Kuwait. Do you want to be like that, and have people say that we are an oil-rich people who are useless, and that they can even take our women? This has happened in Kuwait. The Kuwaitis are now accusing Iraq of taking their women. Whether it is true or not, that is not the issue; the important thing to remember is that they did not fight.

Naturally, we do not wish to see Arabs fighting other Arabs. This has happened; Arabs have fought other Arabs. But we are talking about a situation of weakness, and we wonder why it has occurred, whether it is against Iraq, Hulako [a Mogul chief] or anybody else. It does not make any difference. Somebody has attacked you; why did you not fight? You cannot say he is my brother until he attacks me. If he attacks you in your own home, it is a different matter; you must resist. Why did they not fight back? It is said that they are an oil-rich people, and that they do not fight.

Are the Americans not rich? Do they have oil, and are they not rich? Are the Germans not rich? Is there another country richer than Germany? It is the fifth most industrialized country. They are all fighting like demons. Even their women are now fighting in Saudi Arabia, or are ready to fight.

This is no excuse. It is true that oil can corrupt people's character and give them a luxurious life, but in return one must defend this wealth. As this boon can lead to prosperity and a luxurious life, it must be defended. You must take a rifle and defend your oil, for that oil is the source of the Libyan people's prosperity. Defending oil is defending Libya, and not handing it over to the Americans, the French, the Jews, the blacks, or anybody else. It can only be handed over in the case of Arab unity. In that case, yes. [revolutionary slogans chanted by conscripts] [passage omitted]

The United States also has military bases throughout the world. I am only talking about Rwanda now—this small hot-bed of tension. If we want to send Libyans to defend Rwanda, and if we call them up in the night, in the morning we will not find them in the barracks. Anyhow, on behalf of all Libyans, I would like to express a positive development in the Libyan attitude toward assuming responsibility for defending freedom. Indeed there is now a feeling, a sense of responsibility, and a new revolutionary generation that has been brought up in the era of the revolution. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Presence of Iraqi Missiles, Troops Refuted

AB1810090490 Paris AFP in English 0424 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Paris, Oct 18 (AFP)—The foreign minister of the north African state of Mauritania, one of the few to have remained allied with Iraq since it invaded Kuwait, on Wednesday denied rumours that it had allowed Iraqi missiles and troops to be stationed on its territory.

"There are no Iraqi troops in Mauritania, and the story of the missiles is part of an anti-Iraqi campaign dating from before the invasion of Kuwait," Hasni Ould Didi told the Arab-language daily AL-HAYAT in an interview published on Wednesday in London and Paris.

U.S. officials have confirmed to Mauritania that their satellites had not picked up any signs of such a military presence, Mr. Ould Didi said.

The minister also said that his country condemned the use of violence in conflicts between states.

Mauritania had "cordial and brotherly relations with Iraq," but "that does not mean that we accept, or will accept, the annexation of Kuwait," he said.

If Iraqi ballistic missiles were to be installed in Mauritania, they would be capable of hitting targets in western Europe.

Morocco

Ahmed Osman Reelected Speaker of Parliament

LD1610054790 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Elections for the chairmanship of the Chamber of Deputies took place this evening at the Sessions Hall of the Chamber of Deputies in the presence of a number of ministers of his majesty's government.

The results of the secret individual ballot show that Ahmed Osman has won the position of chairman of the Chamber of Deputies. The tenure of his chairmanship of the Chamber will thus be extended by two years.

Confidence in Ahmed Osman as chairman of the Chamber of Deputies was renewed as the counting of the votes by the secretaries showed that Ahmed Osman was reelected by 142 of the 195 delegates who voted. [passage omitted]

The Chamber of Deputies will begin the process of electing the bodies of the Chamber at 1600.

Osman Discusses Sahara, Gulf Crisis

LD1710201390 Rabat MAP in English 1425 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Rabat, Oct. 17 (MAP)—The renewal for two years of the Parliament term through the referendum (of

December 1989) enables Morocco to be fully devoted to examining national priorities and the Sahara issue in particular, said on Tuesday [16 October] Ahmed Osman, speaker of the Moroccan Parliament.

In an address on the occasion of the new legislature, Osman said Morocco is determined to end the conspiracy against the Moroccanity [as received] of the Saharan provinces. All Moroccans are mobilized to wage this decisive struggle, he said, stressing the unanimity of the Moroccan people "on our territorial cause".

Regarding the Gulf crisis, the speaker of the House regretted that at the moment international trends are oriented to groupings and solidarity, Arab dissensions grow deeper. Osman also expressed dismay at the rapidity with which the UNO [United Nations] adopted resolutions against Iraq and imposed a blockade on this country, while resolutions in favor of the Palestinian issue remained a dead letter for forty years. Osman further expressed satisfaction at the settling of the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and at the positive developments East European countries are witnessing. He, however, called on the international community to seriously deal with the Palestinian and Lebanese issues and provide a solution to them. Concerning cooperation and development at the international level, Osman deplored the fact that the gap is continuing to widen between industrialised and developing countries.

During the session, the MPs [Members of Parliament] elected members of the bureau and heads of the permanent commissions. Osman was re-elected speaker of the House during a session held on Monday.

Cabinet Approves Draft Privatization Decrees

LD1710200290 Rabat MAP in English 1421 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Skhirat, Oct. 17 (MAP)—King Hassan II presided Tuesday [16 October] at a Cabinet meeting at the Royal Palace of Skhirat (20 km south of Rabat). The session was devoted to examining draft decrees on the implementation of the law authorizing the transfer of state-owned companies to the private sector.

These decrees are part of legal and financial measures relating to privatization modalities, particularly the determining of assessment criteria to be applied to the would-be transferred property, of modes to be applied in their price fixing, of prerogatives of government authorities in charge of the privatization process and of the composition and powers of the evaluation body, in conformity with the aforementioned law.

The Cabinet, henceforth, approved four draft decrees on the privatization law.

These deal with the entitlement criteria provided for by Article 5 of the privatization law, the enforcement of Aricle 7 of the same law on modes of implementation, the powers and prerogatives of the ministry in charge of privatization, and operating conditions of the privatization commission.

Sudan

Iraq's Ramadan Brings Message to Al-Bashir

JN1710200390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Oct (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and first deputy prime minister, arrived in Khartoum this afternoon as part of a tour that has already taken him to a number of Arab states.

The first deputy prime minister was welcomed at Khartoum Airport by Staff Major General al-Tijani Adam al-Tahir, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC]; Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Rahim Muhammad Husayn, secretary general of the NSRCC; and 'Ali Ahmad Sahlul, foreign minister.

In a statement at Khartoum Airport, First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he is carrying a message from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother, Sudanese leader Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, on the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf, including consultations and coordination with the Sudanese leadership with a view toward confronting the hostile imperialist onslaught against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The first deputy prime minister added: We are pleased to be visiting fraternal Sudan because of the noble position taken by this country's well-meaning leadership and people. We will pass along the appreciation and pride of the Iraqi leadership and people in Sudan's pan-Arab positions. The Sudanese people always hasten to defend Arab causes in defiance of all agents and their imperialist masters, epitomizing their pan-Arab position through demonstrations against the U.S. occupiers and their allies.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the U.S. blockade and aggression against Iraq began before 2 August, because before that date the Americans banned exports to Iraq of technological devices, wheat, and other foodstuffs.

The first deputy prime minister added that the Americans will be defeated, thanks to the resolve of the Iraqi troops. He stressed that Iraq will not cede its natural rights.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the Arab masses support Iraq and that the Iraqis are capable of breaking the blockade. He added that they get stronger as the aggression grows more ferocious.

Numayri Views Al-Bashir's Relations With Iraq

PM1810104390 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 Oct 90 p 3

[Interview with former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri by 'Umar Jastinyah; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Jastinyah] It has been announced in Khartoum by Salah Karrar, member of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council, that the al-Bashir regime welcomes your return and has prepared a private residence for you. Have you received an invitation to that effect?

[Numayri] Al-Bashir knows well that I refuse to return under present conditions and in such a manner. It is a suspect invitation. Otherwise, why is it coming at this particular time, when the Sudanese regime is facing isolation abroad and increasing opposition from within?

The Sudanese regime, which committed a sin by backing falsehood in the Gulf crisis, is suffering real isolation and trying to extricate itself from that isolation. I will not help it to do so. I will decide when to return. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] What about the deterioration of relations between Egypt and the Sudanese regime?

[Numayri] Saddam Husayn tried to contain Egypt, through both the Arab Cooperation Council and the formation of a so-called Arab corps or Arab military alliance, in order to start his aggressive schemes against the region's states. And he knows that Egypt is the largest Arab state and the most experienced in war. When his attempts failed, Saddam incited al-Bashir to engage in skirmishes with the Egyptians. Then Iraqi weapons poured into Sudan. Al-Bashir and Saddam thought that no one would be able to expose the secrets of Iraqi weapons in Sudan, but modern reconnaissance means uncovered the Iraqi plot.

Tons of chemicals weapons have actually arrived in Sudan, supposedly to be used in the south just as Saddam used them against the Kurds in northern Iraq. But the real objective of these chemical weapons is to threaten both Egypt and the Kingdom. We also know that there are Iraqi experts in Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Jastinyah] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that if Iraqi missiles are installed in Sudan, he will immediately destroy them. Are there currently missiles in Sudan?

[Numayri] Yes, there are missiles in Sudan, but they have not yet been installed. Once these missiles are installed, it will not be the Egyptians who will destroy them but we Sudanese—I and my colleagues, sons, and brothers in Sudan, who are keeping a close watch on the movements of the Iraqi experts who are searching for uranium in Sudan. And even if the Sudanese regime launches a strike against Egypt, it will never be able to withstand an Egyptian retaliatory strike.

[Jastinyah] In view of present conditions in Sudan and its implication in the Iraqi regime's conspiracy, how do you see that regime's future?

[Numayri] The Sudanese regime must first be toppled, and as soon as possible. From their bitter experiences, the Sudanese people are now convinced of the futility of that regime. They are currently working earnestly and we are behind them. We hope that Sudan will recover its correct position among its Arab and Muslim brothers. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

President Meets Iraq's Ramadan for Second Time

JN1710130690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Tunis, 17 Oct (INA)—Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, here today.

Following the meeting, in a statement to an INA correspondent, Ramadan said that during his talks with President Ben Ali, they continued discussion of the topics they covered last Sunday and the results of the Tunisian president's contacts with a number of Arab and European officials this week on the developments in the Gulf situation, and the importance of continuing efforts to achieve peace in the region.

The first deputy prime minister said that he briefed the Tunisian president on the results of his meetings with the Libyan, Algerian, and Mauritanian presidents, the king of Morocco, and these leaders' concerns with averting a devastating war in the region.

Taha Yasin Ramadan said that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali stressed the importance of continuing efforts and visits to expand opportunities for peace in the region.

The first deputy prime minister was satisfied with his second meeting with the Tunisian president, and with his serious concern to achieve a full and comprehensive peace in the region, which is threatened by an armed foreign presence.

Attending the meeting were Tunisian Prime Minister Hamed Karoui and Iraqi Ambassador to Tunisia Hamid 'Alwan al-Juburi.

Ramadan arrived here last night from Rabat within the framework of a tour that took him to Libya, Algeria, Morocco, and Mauritania, in addition to Tunisia.

Kuwait

Refugees Cite Iraqi Identity Card Mandate

NC1810093590 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Kuwaiti refugees who arrived yesterday at the Saudi border town of Ra's al-Khafji said that the occupation forces have ordered all Kuwaiti citizens to carry Iraqi identity cards as of 25 October. The move is further evidence of Iraq's resolve to hold on to Kuwait. The refugees added that the situation is worsening in Kuwait and Iraqi troops are killing and torturing Kuwaitis for no apparent reason. The troops also force Kuwaitis to use Iraqi currency instead of the Kuwaiti dinar.

Kuwait Airways To Start Regular Flights to Gulf

NC1810093990 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] The first regular Kuwait Airways flights between Cairo and Jeddah will begin today. A reliable source at Kuwait Airways said that the company, in agreement with the Egyptian authorities, will operate two flights per week, one to Jeddah and the other to Dubayy. It is noteworthy that the Kuwaiti airline has temporarily relocated to Cairo following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Amir Receives Bulgarian Official in Riyadh

LD1710202890 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, received Filip Ishpekov, the Bulgarian first deputy foreign minister, this afternoon. Ishpekov handed His Highness a message from the Bulgarian president dealing with relations between the two friendly countries.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-'Atiqi, adviser to His Highness the amir's office, attended the meeting, as did Bulgarian Ambassador to Kuwait Angel Manchev.

Oman

Qabus Receives Letter From Italian Leadership

JN1710213190 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, God preserve him, received a written letter from the friendly Italian leadership today. The message was conveyed to His Highness Shaykh Fahar Bin-Taymur Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs, by General [name indistinct], couldn't find namesecretary general of the Italian Defense Ministry. The meeting was attended by the Italian ambassador to Oman and officials at the office of the deputy prime minister for security and defense affairs.

Minister Confers With French Delegation

JN1810080790 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] His Highness Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, deputy prime minister for legal affairs, received in his office this morning the French parliamentary delegation which is currently visiting the country.

At the beginning of the meeting, His Highness Fahd Al Sa'id welcomed the guest delegation and praised the strong Omani-French relations. The French parliamentarians expressed pleasure at visiting the Sultanate, having the opportunity to meet with several officials there, and becoming acquainted with the comprehensive advancement witnessed by Oman under the leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

They discussed bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation between the two friendly countries. They also reviewed the current situation in the Gulf in addition to several issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Jean-Pierre Guyot, French ambassador to the Sultanate.

Qatar

Diplomatic Relations Established With Bulgaria

JN1710212990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Doha, 16 Oct (INA)—Qatar and Bulgaria have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level as of today.

According to a Qatari Foreign Ministry statement carried by the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the two countries—having agreed to set up diplomatic ties—are now poised to consolidate their ties in the spirit of the UN Charter based on peaceful coexistence, equality, and mutual respect of their sovereignty and territorial integrity and noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Saudi Arabia

Three British Men Reportedly Escape From Iraq

NC1710195990 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Oct 17 (AFP)—Three British nationals have escaped from Iraq into Saudi Arabia after crossing the desert by car, a British Embassy spokesman said Wednesday.

The three men, two of whom were hospital workers, crossed into northern Saudi Arabia on Monday,

spokesman Nick Abbott said. He declined to say where in Iraq the three had left from or where exactly they arrived in Saudi Arabia.

The British Foreign Office earlier stated in London that three Britons had escaped from Iraq "in the last 24 hours", adding that they did not possess exit visas. The foreign office did not name the men.

Mr. Abbott said all three were in good health and that British authorities were arranging to have them sent home.

Two of the men worked at a hospital run in Baghdad by PARC, a subsidiary of the Irish airline Aer Lingus. An Aer Lingus spokesman on Wednesday called their action "very dangerous and irresponsible".

They escaped "against the strong advice of both the British and the Irish ambassadors in Iraq", the spokesman said, adding that the company hoped the incident would not jeopardise the "special status" granted by Iraq to some 200 Irish and 43 British nationals working at the Parc hospital.

The three Britons who escaped on Monday were the second group of Westerners to flee Iraq for Saudi Arabia this month.

Three Britons and two Frenchmen held by Iraq arrived in Saudi Arabia on October 4 after fleeing the southern Iraqi town of al-Basrah by boat.

Minister on U.S., Arab Troops' Presence

NC1810111790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0637 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 Oct (MENA)—Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has expressed appreciation for the position of President Husni Mubarak and the Eygptian people toward their brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He said this stand will have a great effect on building stronger and more solid relations, considering that they will be the result of shared experience.

In an exclusive interview with AL-AKHBAR published today, the Saudi defense minister described Egypt's position on the Gulf crisis as one of the most sensitive positions in modern history. He said it is a historic stand that put things back in order in the Arab world.

Prince Sultan appealed to Arabs who have slipped into supporting the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait to return to what is right and reconsider their position in order to preserve Arab solidarity and save lives. He added that the situation is quite clear and hoped those who had stepped out of line with the Arab, Islamic, and international consensus responded to this appeal. If they do not, they will be betting on a losing horse, he added.

In response to a question on the claims that the American troops were there to stay, the Saudi defense minister told AL-AKHBAR that not one American or Western soldier will remain on Saudi territory once their mission is completed. He added that the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd] has clearly explained this, as have U.S. President George Bush, French President Francois Mitterrand, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. As for the Arab troops, they are on their own land, he added.

Asked about reports of differences in the joint command of the Arab troops, Prince Sultan said such reports are unfounded and added that coordination exists among these troops and that all views are discussed until unanimity is reached.

Regarding the future of the Arab world after the present predicament is over, the Saudi defense minister said that new rules of Arab solidarity must be formulated so that a strong and firm foundation is established. He noted that the current crisis has shown us what we in the Arab world need for this edifice to constitute a true umbrella for sound, cohesive, and fruitful Arab unity in the security, economic, and social fields, he added.

Ministry Official Meets Bulgaria's Ishpekov

LD1710203790 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1616 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 17 Oct (SPA)—'Abd-al-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary of state for foreign affairs, received Filip Ishpekov, Bulgarian first deputy foreign minister, at his office in Jeddah this afternoon. Ashikov was accompanied by Bulgarian Ambassador to Kuwait Angel Manchev.

During the reception, bilateral relations and the situation in the region were discussed. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Meets UAE Presidential Envoy

LD1710200490 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, received in his office at the Royal Court in al-Salam Palace this afternoon His Excellency Ahmad Khalifa al-Suwaydif, the personal envoy of His Highness the president of the United Arab Emirates.

The meeting was attended by the adviser to the Crown Prince's Office, 'Abd-al-Muhsin Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, and the UAE general consul in Jeddah, Muhammad Musabbah.

Ministry Reacts to FRG Refusal To Sell Arms

LD1310171390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2345 GMT 12 Oct 89

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Oct (SPA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Defense and Aviation made the following statement to SPA today:

With reference to news agency reports concerning the statement made by the federal German defense minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, yesterday, Thursday, 11 October 1990,

expressing the refusal of the German Government to sell arms to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the rest of his statement in this respect, the Ministry of Defense and Aviation wishes to underline here what it has repeatedly declared in reply to similar statements by officials in Germany, to the effect that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had not originally made any formal request to buy weapons or military equipment from the German Government. The Kingdom can import what it needs to boost its defense capabilities from arms markets available in the world.

Minister Receives British Forces Commander

LD1410170190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Oct 1990, SPA—His Royal Highness Amir Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received in Jeddah this afternoon the commander of the British forces in the Middle East, Lieutenant General Peter de la Billierecq. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in the Kingdom, Alan Munro, and the British military attache in the Kingdom.

Pakistani Armed Forces Chief Arrives

LD1410052890 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2135 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Riyadh, 13 October—Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Sirohey, chairman of the joint staff committee of the Pakistani Armed Forces, arrived in Riyadh this evening. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Saudi Commander Meets Defense Minister, Departs

JN1710161090 Manama WAKH in English 1535 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Dubayy, Oct 17 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Rashid al-Maktum met today with commander of the Joint forces in Saudi Arabia, Lt. General Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

Prince Khalid explained to Shaykh Muhammad the operations and coordination among the forces in Saudi Arabia.

He said those forces were fully prepared to face any emergency, while Shaykh Muhammad stressed the importance of international efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

Later today, the Saudi commander left Dubayy after a two-day visit to the UAE.

Amir Issues Decree on Status of Ministers

JN1310122090 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 10 Oct 90 p 1

["Text" of governmental decree "No. 1" issued by Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, issued on 9 October]

[Text] We, Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, after reviewing the provisional Constitution and considering the cabinet as having legally resigned as of the death of His Highness Shaykh Rashid Bin-Sa'id al-Maktum, vice president and prime minister, may God have mercy on him, and in accordance with public interests, have decided the following:

Article 1: The ministers will remain in their positions on a temporary basis to take care of urgent issues until the new government is formed.

Article 2: This decree shall be executed as of its date of issuance and shall be published in the official gazette.

Yemen

Oil Products Prices Rise; Conservation Urged

JN1810082790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In its regular meeting today under brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, the Council of Ministers charged the minister of youth and sports with staying in the Harab region, together with a number of concerned officials, to supervise the facilities provided by the Council to brothers returning from Saudi Arabia to the homeland and to follow all matters pertinent to them.

The Council discussed the increase in oil prices in the world and decided to raise the price of petroleum products. One liter of gasoline will now be sold for 6 riyals and one liter of diesel for 3 riyals. [passage omitted]

Brother Salih Abu Bakr Husaynun, petroleum and mineral resources minister, said the Cabinet decision to raise the gasoline price from 3 to 6 riyals per liter and the diesel price from 2 to 3 riyals came after detailed study, especially of the increase in oil prices in the world by approximately 400 percent. In a statement to SABA', the minister said that the economic situation our country is going through, especially after the eruption of the Gulf crisis and Yemen's observance of Security Council resolutions imposing economic embargo against Iraq, made the increase necessary. However, he added, the state is still subsidizing (?diesel) after the increase by 1.7 riyal per liter because the product is used in agricultural development and public transportation. It is also subsidizing kerosene and gas, which maintained their old prices.

Concluding, the minister said there will be steps to economize on energy and transportation in general in view of the economic situation in the country. He expressed hope that the citizens, for their part, will ration consumption and conserve energy.

Nation Offers To Sell Oil for OPEC Price

JN1810105090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0942 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim has stated the following: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Through leader President Saddam Husayn's appreciation of Iraq's humanitarian role and responsibility—under all circumstances—toward humanity and the world community; through appreciation that this responsibility and role necessitate that Iraq help loosen the knots and surmount the obstacles facing them; and because the crisis in the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula has lead to an increase in oil prices thanks to short supply compared to demand, we announce, in accordance with the orders of the leader president, that Iraq is fully ready to sell its oil to willing states and companies, including the United States.

In order that this decision not be understood outside its objectives and goals, we accept that the price of the oil not be transferred to Iraq but be deposited in accordance with a special arrangement, with Iraq not using it in a normal way until the crisis eases and things become stable on the basis of relations free of tension and spite. The price we set for this oil is $21 [per barrel] as decided by OPEC.

By making this announcement, we have contributed to reducing the oil price for the world consumer, exposed the game of politicians who are colluding with the monopolistic oil companies and who speculate in their markets, and checked the excessiveness of the oil shaykhs who have taken advantage of the crisis and begun to give free rein to their desire to accumulate wealth and make fortunes.

Also with this announcement, world public opinion, particularly Western public opinion, will be certain about the realities of and motives behind their rulers' hostile policies and the reasons behind their attempts to exacerbate matters in the region instead of helping to achieve peace, which would provide stability and clear and stable relations between the seller and purchaser according to bases which would stop the seller and purchaser from taking advantage of the circumstances and raising or reducing the price outside their gradual and true rates.

With this, we underline Iraq's position, which it has been calling for since 1973 when the oil prices increased in view of the October 1973 war circumstances. We confirm our adherence to the humanitarian approach toward peoples, including the peoples of the countries and governments that are massing their armies around us and on the land of our sanctities with the aim of staging aggression against our people and national achievements.

Iranian Diplomatic Mission Arrives in Baghdad

JN1810091690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—An Iranian diplomatic mission headed by a charge d'affaires arrived in Baghdad last night to assume the duties of Iran's embassy in Baghdad.

In a joint statement issued in Baghdad and Tehran Sunday, Iraq and Iran decided to resume their diplomatic relations and open embassies in both capitals.

Speaker Says Nation Will Release Four Japanese

OW1710141690 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] An NHK team has reported from Baghdad that Iraqi National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih said on 17 October that four Japanese will be released in one or two days.

Speaker Salih, who is believed to be in charge of the foreign hostages in Iraq, said this in a meeting with Wasuke Miyake, former director general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle East and African Affairs Bureau and is currently president of the Middle East Survey Association, on the morning of 17 October. During the meeting, Speaker Salih said that Iraq will release four Japanese—Takuji Yoshimoto, Hiroyuki Iwase, Tomiko Akiko, and Misao Kobori—in one or two days.

Among the four are people who came from Kuwait as well as some who have resided in Iraq from the beginning. The correct names of the four are not yet known, and it is not clear on what grounds Iraq has chosen them. Of the four Japanese to be released, Hiroyuki Iwase is believed to be an employee of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Nogasaki Shipyard, who was sent to Kuwait on temporary assignment at a power plant project in July. Mr. Iwase's family members says it asked the company about the report by telephone, but that the company said it has received no such report.

Misao Kobori is believed to be a 37-year-old engineer for Toyo Engineering Company's Chiba Office who was caught in the conflict while on temporary assignment in Iraq. Mr. Kobori has been in Iraq since June. After Iraq invaded Kuwait, he, together with his colleages, was moved to the (Kadomia) Hotel in Baghdad, and has kept in touch with company officials in Japan by phone.

Takuji Yoshitomo, while the spelling is different, is believed to be Takeuchi Yoshitomo of Mitsubishi Company's Business Department. The company is trying to confirm this report.

Embassy Gives UK Women Visas To Join Husbands

JN1710194790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1911 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The Iraqi Embassy in London has given some British women entry visas to visit Iraq at their request to join their husbands who are hosted by the Iraqi people.

This was announced by a responsible source at the Iraqi Embassy. The source said the embassy is ready to grant other visas to British women who would like to visit Iraq and join their husbands who are staying in Baghdad.

REUTER quoted a British Foreign Office spokesman as saying that the office is well aware that some of the British women who were allowed to leave Iraq have expressed a desire to return, despite being advised not to do so. REUTER inidicated that the Iraqi Embassy in London has received visa applications to enter Iraq from more than 10 British women.

Czech Engineer on Impact of Embargo on Nation

AU1610154790

[Editorial report] Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 15 October on page 3 carries a 400-word interview with Vit Morava, a Czechoslovak engineer who returned from Iraq on 13 October, by Martin Cap. The date and place of the interview are not given.

Morava, who was working on the construction of a heating plant "350 kilometers north of Baghdad," first explains how difficult it is for foreigners to get out of Iraq these days. He says that all foreign nationals require an exit visa, the issuance of which depends on the Iraqi customer. The customer, in turn, makes his consent conditional on the completion of the contract. This accounts for a "vicious circle." Morava does not explain how he himself managed to leave the country.

Asked about the impact of the international embargo on Iraq, Morava says: "The embargo was felt much earlier than anybody could imagine. Our building project came to a virtual halt at the end of August. Within a single month, the price of rice on the black market climbed 1,200 percent. The lines for bread have extended from the customary 20 minutes to 5 to 6 hours." Morava also mentions that the daily ration of beans and rice in Iraq is limited to 25 grams per person.

Asked about foreigners' access to food, Morava says that "foreigners from the so-called aggressive states" (which reportedly comprise the United States, England, Germany, Italy, and France) depend for their food supplies on their own home countries. Italy, for example, has had to "donate" a few trucks with food to Iraqi citizens to be allowed to supply food to its own citizens.

Saddam Chairs Meeting on Agriculture, 'Blockade'

JN1710195590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn this evening chaired an expanded meeting attended by those concerned with the agricultural campaign for the winter season. During the meeting, they considered the measures taken to render the great cultivation campaign a success, and the facilities provided by the state to peasants to secure the best exploitation of arable land in a way that would help break the economic blockade imposed on our lofty people by the United States and its allies.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC]; Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and deputy prime minister; members of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; cabinet ministers; the head of the General Federation of Peasant Societies; and agricultural specialists.

Saddam Bestows Medals of Valor on Tanker Crewmen

JN1710201090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Presidential Decree No. 308 issued 17 October]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Presidential Decree No. 308: In appreciation of the heroism and exceptional courage demonstrated by the below-named captain and crewmen of the Iraqi tanker Tadmur when they confronted acts of piracy and aggression carried out by the colonial war fleets in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Oman; because they continued to sail the tanker toward its destination, great Iraq, displaying high morale; because they did not succumb to the invaders despite shots fired on them by the Atlantic gunboats, the flying of hostile aircraft over them, and the landing of invading troops on the stern of the tanker, and even though the tanker was surrounded by U.S. frigates, they were asked to surrender the tanker at the point of the gun, and the daily rations of the tanker's crew and the fruit dishes that were on the table were stolen; in accordance with the provisions of Article 26 of the Law on Medals and Decorations No. 95, for 1982, we decreed the following:

First, to grant Falih Mijman Laffah, captain of the tanker Tadmur two medals of valor.

Second, to grant all below-named crewmen of the Iraqi tanker Tadmur medals of valor: [passage omitted].

The competent ministers shall implement this decree.

[Dated] Baghdad, 28 Rabi' al-Awwal 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 17 October 1990

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Minister Welcomes Venezuelan Oil Summit Proposal

JN1810055390 Baghdad INA in English 1700 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 17, INA—Iraq welcomed the call by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez for holding a conference between oil producing and consuming countries under supevision of the United Nations.

That came in a telegram sent by Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd-al-Rahim to Venezuelan Energy and Minerals Minister Celestino Armas.

In his telegram, Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed that current sharp fluctuations witnessed by oil market would only benifit speculators at the expense of oil-producing and consuming countries' interests as well as the needs of developing countries.

The oil minister pointed out the strong ties characterizing the Iraq-Venezuela cooperation relations being two founding members of the OPEC, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and their constructive role during the last thirty years in stabilizing oil markets and just prices in the interest of both oil producers and consumers.

The president of Venezuela, in his recent speech before the United Nations General Assembly, suggested the convening of such conference between oil-producing and consuming countries.

Signs of Uranium Mining Operation Examined

PM1610112090

[Editorial report] London ITV Television Network in English at 1800 GMT on 13 October carries a 10-minute report from "The World This Week" program dealing with an alleged uranium mining operation in Iraq. Program presenter Michael Nicholson says there is evidence, based in part on a Soviet satellite photograph, that Iraq has been mining uranium from a remote northern corner of the country, just south of the Turkish border.

Correspondent Gwin Roberts makes the following report:

"A convoy of identical bullet-proof Mercedes heads into the mountains of northern Iraq. One of them is driven by President Saddam Husayn. In the past the Iraqi leader avoided visits to the remoter regions of Kurdistan because the region was too dangerous. This year alone he has been there at least seven or eight times, ostensibly to visit his new palace in the Gara Mountains. Middle Eastern intelligence sources say he is going there for a very different reason: to visit a high-security project linked to Iraq's quest to build the atom bomb."

The following comments are then made by an unidentified Iraqi exile:

"We have good reason to believe that whatever nuclear development program Iraq has, which is not subject to international inspection, is located in northern Iraq. The exact spot is not known. But that it is in northern Iraq is something that has been verified by Iraqi exile sources, Iraqi defectors, and intelligence sources all over the world."

Roberts continues his report by adding that "Saddam Husayn's attention seems focused on a mountain range 40 miles south of Iraq's border with Turkey.

An unidentified Kurdish leader is then introduced. Sitting in front of a video console he points to video of the mountain range, and says:

"You can see that range. That is where the mining is taking place. Our information is very specific. Our sources have confirmed to us that what they are after is uranium ore, and they are mining for it. But also what we are absolutely sure of is they are building a huge tunnel on the western slope of the mountain." He adds that the people working there are largely Iraqi engineers and military personnel. He notes that the personnel working there are rotated every month and suggests this could be because of the radiation or the secrecy surrounding the project.

Roberts goes on to say: "The Iraqis are known to have concentrated on an enrichment process which involves converting uranium ore into hexaflouride gas. This is then enriched in a centrifuge plant, thus purifying the isotope which drives a nuclear explosion."

Roberts continues, saying: "Northern Iraq is sealed off from the outside world, so Kurdish reports have been difficult to verify. So when we got the map coordinates of the reported mine we had to find another way to check it out. For the first time on television, we used Soviet spy satellite pictures combined with a revolutionary computer technique developed by University College, London. The satellite takes stereo pictures of the terrain. These are then digitized and matched by computer. The aim is to construct a precise three-dimensional terrain model of Kurdistan so we can fly down and take a closer look." The video shows a simulated image of the Kurdish mountains based on the satellite photos.

Roberts adds: "This view has until now been reserved for the military experts with access to superpower spy satellites. This new technology allows us to fly at will around the Gara Mountains, even though it is prohibited airspace. It gives us a close-up view of what is happening on the ground. It reveals large road systems on the Gara Mountains which didn't exist two years ago. This flight also provides other important clues in our investigation. Uranium was found in volcanic rock not far from here in western Iran. And similiar rock formations are visible here."

An unidentifed British mineralogist, looking at the enhanced topographical image, points to a road network that appears around a particular mountain and notes that several of the ridges do not appear natural. He suggests they could be embankments created from a mine entrance.

Roberts says the Soviet pictures were scrutinized by analysts specialized in assessing high-altitude photography with high quality optics. He says they picked out one "extraordinary feature—a huge, strangely-shaped building on the southwestern slopes of the Gara Range." An artist's impression of the building is then shown. The artist's rendering shows a rectangular building, which is then connected by a long enclosed passage to a round building.

Andrew Garfield of the National Image Analysis Center comments on the image: "The large site in the valley below the palace, I would say, is at least 2-3 stories high and could be as long as 750 meters in length. That is certainly not the sort of building one would expect in this part of the world. It doesn't look like a barracks to me, it looks more like an industrial facility. It would be an ideal location if you were trying to keep something secret and if you wanted a high level of security. It is an extremely mountainous region. It is extremely difficult to get to, and I think it is significant that it is just about as far away from Israel as is possible to get in Iraq."

Paul Helliwell of the European Proliferation Center, in commenting on the photographs, says:

"Well, it looks like a uranium milling plant, if this is a uranimum mine. I have seen photographs of items similiar to this in Australia." Roberts remarks that the building is an unusual shape, to which Helliwell replies: "I'd expect the long structural conveyer belt and large-scale industrial machinery for breaking up the rock, which contains about 1 percent of the rock which will actually be U-308 uraninum ore."

Roberts notes that it "can't be coincidence that the Soviet satellite which took the picture of this building was stationed immediately above it in space."

He concludes his report by saying: "Satellites are providing vital evidence of the growing Iraqi military threat. These pictures show Iraq may be much nearer in achieving self-sufficiency in its nuclear program than previously thought. If and when that happens, the West will find itself facing an even more formidable foe."

Thatcher, Hurd Criticized for Recent Remarks

Editor Rebukes Thatcher

JN1710162790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1518 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY ridicules the remarks made by British Prime Minister Thatcher to the British House of Commons, statements in which she said that she had heard that Iraqi troops tortured a relative of one of the henchmen of the Croesus of Kuwait and killed him in front of his family.

The editor added: It seems that Thatcher is pursuing the same approach as her ally Bush the day before yesterday when he attempted to win the sympathies of his listeners in the Congress and to secure their approval of a new U.S. budget bill—the budget bill that has a large deficit. Thatcher shows clearly that she needs the sympathies of her listeners to maintain her involvement in the so-called Gulf crisis ahead of the opposition, which takes a position not identical with Thatcher's. This might also be part of an attempt on her part to enter the new phase of the next elections.

The editor went on to say: It is very repulsive that Thatcher is quoting information provided by agents that she planted in the region, specifically from the family of the Croesus of Kuwait, with whom she conspired to sever the land of Kuwait from the motherland, Iraq.

The editor said: Instead of attempting to win the sympathies of her listeners with unfounded reports, by reports which she knows quite well to be inaccurate, or of attempting to divert the attention from her policies toward the Arab nation, Thatcher should have made well-intentioned endeavors to withdraw her fleets and those of her allies. Besides, she should not have interfered in the internal affairs of the region.

The editor recalled that the objective behind hosting a number of foreigners in Iraq is to spare the region the evil of an aggression by the Americans—her partners and allies in the conspiracy being hatched against Iraq and the Arab nation to dominate Arab oil and control it in their own interests. The editor condemned the determination of the old hag to go to excess in her intervention and to dispatch more British troops. He viewed this as an evil act that confirms the colonialist approach Britain has been pursuing for the past decades against the Arab nation.

The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY added: Had her humanitarian sentiments been sincere, she would have been pained by, and shown her condemnation of, the massacre the Zionist entity perpetrated against the Palestinian people at the al-Aqsa Mosque—a massacre whose blood still stains the mosque walls and calls the conscience of Arabs and Muslims to avenge the murder. The double standards and devious behavior shown by Thatcher reveal a sick mind and a deep hostility against Iraqis and Arabs. As for her cries and slaps to her cheeks, they will not add one percentage point to her declining popularity, now that she has been shown for what she really is, that her platform has failed, and that her popularity has reached rockbottom.

Ministry Official Blasts Hurd

JN1710150190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—Wisam al-Zahawi, senior under secretary at the Foreign Ministry, has stated the following to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY:

The statements made by British Foreign Office Secretary Douglas Hurd during his visit to the Zionist entity, and

as carried by news agencies, have revealed the double standard and hypocrisy of Britain and its big ally the United States when dealing with Palestinian rights in particular and Arab rights in general. The proposals he made to the Zionist leaders to save them from their impasse and to prevent Britain and other members of the UN Security Council from being charged with double standards have placed Hurd in ridiculous paradoxes and labyrinths. AFP quoted an official Israeli source as saying that Hurd proposed that Israel reject UN Security Council Resolution 672 in part but yet agree to receive the fact-finding mission of the UN secretary general.

This makes it clear Hurd's concern is for Britain to convince the Arabs and the international community with minimal evidence that Israel has accepted the UN Security Council resolution, regardless of the fact that this evidence might lack any kind of rationale or credibility. However, official Israeli sources have chosen to reveal the truth regarding the British position against the Palestinian people. These sources quoted the British secretary as saying, in a meeting with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Israeli Parliament, that Britain categorically opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. By making such a statement, Douglas Hurd is reiterating the well-known position of the United States, which refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's right to self-determination—an inalienable right enshrined in the international charters of all the world's peoples. This position unequivocally embodies Britain's double standard in dealing with the Arab people's rights and with the implementation of international legitimacy regarding these rights.

Paper Ridicules Hurd

JN1710151190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has stressed that the Iraqi people and all honest Arabs and Muslims know how and when they will defeat the old colonialist minds that are afflicted with madness, and how to make these minds return to their senses.

In an editorial today, the paper says: The British foreign secretary, like his ancestors from whom he inherited his thoughts and policies, cannot forget the defeats that the Iraqis have inflicted on his country since the 1920 revolution, the Iraqi people's uprisings, and up to the great 17-30 July Revolution. Moreover, he cannot forget what has been achieved throughout the years of independence and national and pan-Arab liberation that have been further entrenched with the passage of time, including the destruction of the Baghdad Pact, the nationalization [of oil], the settling of the Kurdish question, and the thorough grasp of military science and technology.

The paper ridicules Hurd's statements calling for an attack on Iraq, saying: A revolutionary state such as Iraq that enjoys all forms of political, economic, and military independence does not fear the empty statements of those who try to bypass facts and go back in time, like the time machine we often see in U.S. movies—in which Hurd would make a good actor—in order to deal with the new world in the same way as the old invaders and occupiers.

Editor Blasts 'Double Standards'

JN1710144890 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The international affairs editor of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY has exposed the two-faced policy and double standards shown by Britain when it deals with Israel.

This came in comments that he made today on the statements carried by the Zionist entity's radio to the effect that the Zionist prime minister opposed the proposal made by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is currently visiting the Zionist entity—the proposal that Israel can reject the UN Security Council resolution on the Jerusalem al-Haram al-Sharif but yet agree to some kind of cooperation with the UN mission.

The editor added: The world is fully aware that Britain only wants to be able to say to the Arabs: You see, Israel has accepted the UN secretary general's decision, the implementation of which was entrusted to him by the UN Security Council, regarding the dispatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied territories. The interests of Arabs and Palestinians in the occupied territories are of no concern to them.

The editor went on to say: Thus, the truth regarding those who speak about international law, UN Security Council resolutions, justice, civilization, and other concepts cherished by honorable Arabs and rejected by those who brag about upholding them—such as Thatcher, Bush, and the chorus of clowns in the marketplace of politics and its dark halls—appears.

The editor said: At any rate, we would like to tell these people and all those who are eager to see justice and right upheld: Only right will be vindicated. As for Britain, which fought the Arabs in the past and continues to fight them now, and which has continued to provide them with sugar-coated poison, it will always remain the author of the Balfour Declaration, which allowed the usurpation of Arab territories whose occupation by the Zionists have continued.

Concluding his comments, the international affairs editor said: What concerns Britain is form rather than substance. However, the Zionist officials have chosen to expose Thatcher's foreign secretary. Let them be damned.

Change of UN Venue Urged To Halt U.S. Control

JN1210093090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has urged the world community to seek

to review the system which the work of the UN Security Council and the United Nations is based on.

In an editorial entitled "The United States: Hypocrisy and Double Standards," the paper today urges action to find places other than New York to hold UN General Assembly and UN Security Council discussions, away from the well-known U.S. effects.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the course of hypocrisy, the policy of double standards and selectivity, and the process of turning black into white and white into black according to U.S. whims only serve to satisfy the U.S. allies and agents, as was the case with Thatcher and the agents Fahd and Husni, who have shown unprecedented agreement in positions with Bush.

The paper explains that the U.S. veto and the obstruction of international will, when it goes against the U.S. Administration's desire and when the matter concerns the Zionist entity, is a mark of disgrace to this age. These U.S. methods make its spoiled ally, the Zionist entity, destroy, kill, and usurp as it pleases in the occupied territories without any deterrence or punishment.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that no one can now cover the fact that the Zionist entity is one of the principal U.S. claws in the region which it uses against Arab hopes, ambitions, and basic rights, at head of which is their right to live, progress, and develop their resources—scientifically and technologically—to take their full role in the world community.

It adds that the U.S. Administration's obstruction of the decision to denounce the Zionist entity and its atrocious crime in the Jerusalem holy mosque adds another page to the file of Washington's positions in support of the Zionist entity, which is filled with more than 600 U.S. vetoes against the causes of peoples, including the Palestinian people.

It explains that this clear U.S. position shows the hegemony which the United States is trying to impose on the world community, especially after the Bush administration has taken eight resolutions against Iraq in less than two months. Washington very zealously rushed, and pushed its allies to rush, to issue those resolutions although they were founded on illegal bases; their measures depended on Washington's desires, not on the international law's articles and charts; and were selected according to Washington's whim, not out of concern to implement the spirit of principles or their justness.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes its editorial by saying that the world community's review of the system and mechanism of the UN Security Council and the location of another headquarters to the General Assembly and Security Council is a legitimate and necessary thing to do in order to stop the mockery of U.S. hypocrisy, double standards, and discrimination continuing.

Papers on World Acknowledgement of Annexation

JN1810111590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Oct (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers have rebutted claims attributed to Iraqi officials by some foreign quarters concerning Kuwait's national identity.

In their editorials today, the four Iraqi dailies say that if the world community is eager to achieve peace and full security in the region and the world, it should acknowledge that Kuwait's land is Iraqi territory, recognize the historical and geographic facts, and disclose the objectives of the British conspiracy of slicing Kuwait from Iraq and establishing an artificial mini-state to serve its colonialist goals in the region.

Under the headline "There is No Retreat From our Rights and Achievements", AL-THAWRAH says that no Iraqi official has said or will say that Kuwait is not part of Iraq, and all should deal with this declared policy as an established fact.

It adds that the Arab nation, which has a costly experience with its enemies, fully realizes its enemies' methods of deception and their means to create confusion and suspicion and spread inattention and relaxation. Out of this realization, vigilance, and alertness, the Arab nation holds fast to its will and to its historic achievement at the hands of the Iraqis, their will, and their steadfastness. The nation will not be distracted by statements or stories fabricated by the gathering of evil and its political and media circles, says the paper.

Under the headline "There is Much Difference Between Martyrs and Mercenaries," AL-JUMHURIYAH focuses on the contradictions of the enemy camp's political, military, and media circles concerning the question of Iraqi Kuwait and the desire of the imperialist circles to restore the division between Iraq and its southern governorate, Kuwait, by all means and ways. It notes that this camp massed mercenaries and pushed them thousands of kilometers away.

The paper says that the Arab and Muslims, who feel very angry with the occupation of their holy places by the U.S.-Atlantic alliance, know the true value of their sanctities and are ready to sacrifice their souls for them.

The paper discusses the Arab and Muslim spirit of jihad for the sake of holy places and points to the decisive effect of this on achieving victory over the weak spirits of the mercenaries, who are not defending a cause they believe in but are forced to do something against their own will.

AL-QADISIYAH, mouthpiece of the Defense Ministry, discusses the theory that politics is the art of the possible and says that Iraq, through its adherence to its position on national and pan-Arab issues, stresses that this theory does not apply, and can never apply to the Arabs' crucial issues.

It refers to hints by some Arab and world officials and media on alleged Iraqi readiness for a partial withdrawal from Kuwait and says that the decision to reunite Kuwait and Iraq is eternal and irrevocable even if this leads to a ferocious battle for which we are preparing with a view to turning it into a truly crucial battle.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: We cannot possibly be dragged to the market of slave politics or to the labyrinths of diplomacy to bargain over our goals. Indeed, we do not reject such practice merely because it is unethical, but because it is diametrically opposed to our principles and pan-Arab struggle.

AL-'IRAQ describes the claims, which lack in truth and logic, as sheer lies. Asking the Iraqis to withdraw from Kuwait is exactly like asking them to withdraw from al-Basrah, Irbil, Nineveh, or any other governorate, and is similar to asking the Americans to withdraw from Washington or New York.

The paper refutes those claims and the U.S. officials' statements on the U.S. unnegotiable conditions for achieving peace in the region. This can only be interpreted, says the paper, as a U.S. attempt to conceal its intention to launch an attack against Iraq and drag the world to a universal war.

Hammadi Meets U.S. Amity Group Leader

JN1710163290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1259 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Oct (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and deputy prime minister, today met with a delegation representing the U.S.-Iraqi Friendship Society between the two peoples led by Dr. Salim Mansur, head of the society.

During the meeting, the RCC member and deputy prime minister said that we would not succumb to any pressures and that we would fight until victory to vindicate right, dignity, and principles if the United States and its allies were to start a war against Iraq.

Hammadi reviewed the links of the conspiracy led by the United States and its allies to halt the development and cultural endeavors in Iraq in various spheres. He affirmed Iraq's determination under His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to resist and thwart the hostile objectives of the economic blockade imposed on the great Iraqi people.

Members of the delegation expressed their great appreciation for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn's initiative of 12 August. They also voiced pride in the will of the great Iraqi people to reconstruct their homeland. Furthermore, they affirmed their solidarity with the Iraqi people in their confrontation of the economic blockade and the threats directed against them—threats that jeopardize the entire world.

Saddam To Head Arab Parliamentarians' Meeting

JN1710184090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Under the patronage of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, meetings of Arab parliamentarians will begin at the conference hall tomorrow, Thursday. The meetings will be held under the slogan "Blood Will Not Enable You To Keep the Lands of Palestine and Arab Holy Shrines. It Would Be Better for You To Withdraw."

In their meetings, the Arab parliamentarians will discuss the adoption of a unified Arab parliamentary position on the heinous and savage crime committed by the Zionist gangs against the Palestinian Arabs at the Jerusalem al-Haram al-Sharif on 8 October. The Arab parliamentarians will also review the latest Arab and international developments.

It is to be recalled that the National Assembly on Sunday [14 October] extended invitations to the General Secretariat of the Arab Parliamentary Union and all Arab parliaments to attend this meeting.

Jasim Receives Finnish Parliamentary Delegation

JN1710203190 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1103 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Oct (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and head of its Foreign Relations Office, has emphasized Iraq's true desire to bring about peace and its constant striving to resolve all the problems of the region.

During his meeting today with the Finnish parliamentary delegation led by Mrs. Saara-Maria Paakkinen, member of the Finnish Parliament and deputy chairman of the ruling Finnish Socialist Democratic Party, he added that the problems in the Middle East are connected and cannot be divided. She said that for these problems to be resolved, the solution must satisfy the interests of its peoples and guarantee a positive interaction with the rest of the peoples of the world.

He pointed out that the unjust embargo resolution to which Iraq is being subjected does not reflect the position of the United Nations, but was an unjust U.S. resolution peddled through the international organization.

Mrs. Paakkinen expressed her complete understanding of the Iraqi position and Iraq's efforts to establish peace in the region. She said: We have learned facts new to us, because of the media blackout practiced by the Western media concerning the problems of the region and their distortion of the true Iraqi position and its true, sincere desire to establish peace and security all over the world.

She added that the Palestine question and its developments were the result of foreign intervention in Middle East issues.

Industry Minister Meets U.S., Japanese Visitors

JN1710152890 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, Oct 17, INA—Minister of Industry and Military Production Husayn Kamil Hasan today met Mr. Wasuke Miyake head of Japan's Middle East Studies Institutes.

During the meeting, the minister expressed Iraq's keenness on continuity and developing its relations with Japan, confirming that effects of the U.S.-Western military presence in the Arab Gulf region would reflect on Japan and other European nations, and these states should define their own interests from the American ones.

On the other hand, the minister met delegation of the American-Iraqi Institution for Friendship between the two peoples headed by Dr. Salim Mansur, chairman of the institution.

The minister affirmed Iraq's faith in peace and its sincere efforts that the language of dialogue among the peoples should be prevailed.

Minister Meets With Swedish Volunteers

JN1710112790 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1816 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim today met with a delegation of Swedish volunteers led by Mr. George Martin. The minister told them Iraq values the efforts of all people of goodwill around the world who seek to spare humanity the horrors of war and consequent disasters. He restated Iraq's commitment to the option of peace underlying the thinking of President Saddam Husayn as expressed on numerous occasions. The minister cited his excellency's generous initiative of 12 August envisaging an all-inclusive solution to all the problems of the Middle East.

The minister said the contrived crisis in the Arabian Gulf and the American-Western invasion of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia], coupled with the serious threats against Iraq seeking to compromise our people and future, is a conspiracy with ominous implications for the world economy. All attempts of the enemies will not intimidate Iraq, whose territorial integrity has been restored after it was dissected by the British colonialism when it controlled the region. All these miserable attempts by the malicious elements in the region and world merchants of war will backfire, he added. The forces of goodwill and peace, he asserted, are bound to rally to the cause of our people's right to life and peaceful co-existence with all the nations of the world.

Speaking for his delegation, George Martin said he holds in high esteem Iraq's efforts to promote regional and global peace. He indicated that through the vehicle of international news media and humanitarian organizations, they are working to let the voice of peace be heard by all the peoples, and to spell out the dangers inherent in the Western military and naval buildup on Arab land and in the Gulf. He emphasized that they are available to act as messengers of peace in Iraq if this should avert threats to Iraqi people, and the need for lifting the wrongful siege targeting the lives of a people and their of food, medicine, and children's milk. As a humanitarian gesture, Martin presented a gift of two boxes of milk to the children of Iraq in recognition of the need to life the unfair blockade of the people of Iraq.

Tariq 'Aziz Returns From Brief Visit to Jordan

JN1310211290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2035 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Oct (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Baghdad this evening following a brief visit to Jordan. The foreign minister conveyed an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal concerning bilateral relations and regional developments.

Saddam Visits Baghdad Elementary School

JN1310162090 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn visited the mixed elementary school of Bilat al-Shuhada' in the al-Dawrah area of Baghdad today. During his meeting with the teaching staff, his excellency the leader president congratulated the students on the Iraqi Child Day today, which marks the third anniversary of the fall of an enemy missile on the school and the martyrdom of 34 children. He then wished the students every success and distinction in their studies to serve the goals of our beloved Iraq.

His excellency also toured the school's classrooms and premises, where he listened to an explanation of the school's requirements. His excellency ordered that these requirements be met. The teaching staff, students, and their families who assembled near the school expressed happiness at the leader president's visit, stressing their undying loyalty to his excellency's wise leadership. They also denounced the unjust campaign by the United States to impose an economic blockade on our country and prevent milk and medicine from reaching our children.

'Text' of Levi Letter to Baker on Guarantees

TA1810064690 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Oct 90 p A1

["Document: Full text of Foreign Minister David Levi's letter to Secretary of State James Baker"—HA'ARETZ subhead]

[Text] Dear Jim,

In the wake of various reports with different puzzling interpretations of my letter to you on the matter of guarantees, I wish to state: You are fully aware of the fact that my letter to you, dated 2 October 1990, contains no commitment—either direct or indirect—to avoid building in Jerusalem, nor to limit construction in Jerusalem or anywhere else, including Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

This statement was fully, unequivocally, and clearly expressed both in our meetings and in your letter to me dated 21 September. Allow me to quote from the minutes of the talks we held in Washington on 5 September 1990 as follows:

"My government has ideological principles. If you believe that we will change our 'credo,' on the basis of which the government was elected, as a result of this loan—you should know that this will not happen." And in another part of the minutes, I stress again: "If you expect the government to declare that it will stop the settlement drive and that no one will settle in the territories—this will not come to pass."

Your reaction was indeed: "You are not requested to make any move contravening your platform and position." Furthermore, in your letter to me dated 21 September 1990, you write, among other things: "I have listened carefully to what you told me in Washington. You particularly stressed the fact that your government will not be in a position in which it is asked to give up the principle of settlement. The assessments you have voiced, David, are imprinted very well on my consciousness."

Later on, you note: "Being aware of your problems and despite our strong objection to the settlement activity, I have made an effort to prevent a situation that would challenge your government's basic principle."

In view of this we agreed, Jim, that the loan guaranteed by your government would be used in accordance with that commitment which the Israeli Government provides every year upon receipt of U.S. civilian aid. This commitment states that the use of the aid money, as well as the housing loans, would be made in those geographic areas which were under Israeli rule prior to 5 June 1967.

This commitment does not—and never did in the past—touch in any way whatsoever on the question of Israeli sovereignty over Jerusalem. Jerusalem's status was determined in the "Law of Jerusalem," which states: "The whole and unified Jerusalem is the capital of Israel." Thus, Jerusalem is not partitioned, by a wall or by any other separation line.

Dear Jim, at the beginning of our talks, we both agreed that our work would be founded on trust and credibility. Therefore, I saw fit to write this letter to reiterate the precise words, as well as the spirit of these words. Let us not allow outside interpretations to undermine this foundation, which is so vital for the relations between our countries and for our personal relations.

Yours sincerely,

David

Shamir Rejects UN Intervention, U.S. Position

PM1710145490 Paris LE MONDE in French 17 Oct 90 p 5

[Unattributed report on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir 14 October remarks to French journalists; place not given: "'We Are Forced To Close Our Doors To Perez de Cuellar's Mission,' Says Shamir"]

[Text] When he received a group of French journalists including our own contributor, Claude Sarraute, on the afternoon of Sunday 14 October, the Israeli prime minister was asked about the consequences of the shootings in Jerusalem. We publish the main part of this conversation below:

[LE MONDE] Do you not believe that the tragedy of that terrible Black Monday could have been avoided?

[Shamir] Any tragedy can be avoided. This one was not. I regret that. Our commission of enquiry is preparing to give its conclusions. We will act accordingly. However, I would like to point out that our army has shown exemplary restraint over recent months. Hardly anybody has been killed other than by Palestinians.

[LE MONDE] What is your reaction to the Security Council resolution?

[Shamir] It is not based on facts—real facts, essential facts. Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. We have complete sovereignty over the Temple Mount mosque and the other holy places. The United Nations does not have the right to interfere in something which does not concern it. In addition, it is doing so in insulting terms. We cannot accept that Jerusalem should be regarded as an occupied territory, moreover its name does not even appear in the resolution. We are therefore obliged to close our door to the secretary general's mission. Receiving it would mean that we recognize that the United Nations has the right of inspection over our state's capital.

[LE MONDE] However, this is the attitude which the United States has adopted for the first time.

[Shamir] The United States is wrong. We should not have to pay the price of the American-Arab coalition. If it indulges in political calculation, that is its business. It cannot do so at our expense.

[LE MONDE] Would you accept the principle of an international conference reduced to the United States, the USSR, and your immediate neighbors?

[Shamir] No. We are at war with all the Arab countries, aside from Egypt. The only way of restoring peace is direct negotiations with the countries in question.

[LE MONDE] Syria's position in the Gulf crisis might in fact lead to separate negotiations between Damascus and Jerusalem...

[Shamir] Everybody knows that relations between Syria and Iraq reflect extreme animosity. Syria is opposing Saddam Husayn today merely to serve its own interests. This is no concern of ours.

[LE MONDE] How do you explain the fact that the Palestinians are idolizing Saddam Husayn?

[Shamir] They see him as a man who is capable of destroying Israel. They see him as the leader, the guide. And he wants to become that. He wants to destroy us. He has threatened that several times. It is in the interest of all those who support him to increase tension between the Palestinians and Israel.

Arens Discusses UN, Gulf, Syrians in Lebanon

TA1810062490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] The Security Council resolution constitutes a direct attack on Israel's sovereignty. There is no room for a UN delegation, Defense Minister Moshe Arens said unequivocally.

[Arens] Receiving the delegation within the framework of this resolution would mean at least tacit agreement with the resolution, and Israel cannot permit itself to do such a thing.

[Menashe] Nevertheless, if Israel does not receive the UN delegation, Secretary of State Baker says it could harm U.S. efforts in the Gulf.

[Arens] On that I would also say that the confrontation in the Gulf, with Saddam Husayn on one side and the United States with the coalition that the U.S. President put together against Saddam Husayn on the other, is so fundamental in relation to things that have very high importance for it not to be influenced—or should not be influenced—by a single event taking place 1,000 km away from Kuwait.

[Karmela] In reference to events in the Gulf, Defense Minister Arens said great efforts should be invested in the economic blockade and only then should other measures be used.

[Arens] I have the impression that Saddam Husayn is impressed by that blockade, so that at this stage I would not rule out that the blockade will be effective and will also lead to results.

[Menashe] A diplomatic, political confrontation and not a military one?

[Arens] I believe that all sides want to solve the problem without a military confrontation. We should just remember that both sides have completely different objectives and in fact opposing objectives. While the Americans would prefer to end the problem without a military confrontation they talk about the need to remove the Iraqis from Kuwait and to remove Saddam Husayn's military capability currently at his disposal. They would surely like to do that through diplomatic means. I have great doubts that it can be done.

[Menashe] The defense minister also referred to the Syrian involvement in Lebanon and the change in deployment in the wake of that involvement.

[Arens] We do not rule out completely that there is a possibility, a danger, that following their success in Beirut and their big influence on the economy of [Lebanese President] al-Hirawi's Lebanon and their presence in the Beirut area and other areas in which they were not present in the past, the Syrians might also want to move southwards and begin to be an influence in southern Lebanon and to influence events in the security zone or the Jazzin area. I hope they will not do this, because it is something we would not be able to accept.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 18 October also quotes the defense minister, in reference to reports that intifadah activists might begin using live ammunition, as saying "they know that it is easier for Israel to confront live fire."]

Warns of Terrorism

TA1710175390 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Oct 90

["Excerpt" of Defense Minister Moshe Aren's address to the Knesset plenum on 17 October—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] We must be prepared for the possibility that hostile elements could try to step up terrorist operations against the security zone and against Israel. Various elements—instead of dealing with the burning and serious problems of Lebanon—may try to attack the security zone or the Jazzin region which is under the control of General Lahd—in one way or another. We will continue to closely monitor developments in Lebanon and their significance, in order to defend our crucial interests and to try to preclude negative developments as far as we are concerned.

On Dialogue With Palestinians

TA1810103490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Defense Minister Arens believes the extensive support for Saddam Husayn among the Palestinian population in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip harmed progress in the dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Minister Arens made the remarks to British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd at the last political meeting the guest held in Israel before leaving after a three-day visit.

The defense minister also expressed doubt that the Temple Mount riots took place for political-nationalist reasons. In his view it was a case of Muslim extremism.

Both ministers also exchanged views on the Gulf crisis. Minister Arens recalled that even prior to the invasion of Kuwait, Saddam Husayn threatened to destroy Israel with chemical weapons, but then nobody except Israel took him seriously.

Kollek Meets Hurd, Discusses Settlement

TA1710153190 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek this afternoon received UK Secretary Douglas Hurd in his office. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that, among other things, the two discussed the activity of the commission examining the Temple Mount incident.

In the meeting, Kollek said that he does not understand Bush's and Baker's reservations about settling immigrants in all parts of Jerusalem, after they made clear in letters to him that they favor allowing everybody to settle everywhere. He noted that extensive construction for Arabs in the city is planned as well.

Hurd Calls Reports of Statements 'Absurd'

TA1710190590 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Excerpts] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd says British policy on the Palestinian question has not changed and that comments he made yesterday at the Knesset were misreported in the press. [passage omitted]

[Begin Hurd recording] It is obviously inconceivable that I would use a private meeting of the Knesset to announce a major change of British policy. It is an absurd proposition; no one could conceive that I should do that. I simply set out in terms similar to the ones I have used in public now what has been the British position for some years now. People may have ideas about what is practicable or not practicable, but what there is no doubt about is the right to self-determination, and that the outcome—whether or not there is a state, whether or not there is an entity—will have to be decided by negotiation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The British foreign secretary rejected charges that he is consistently anti-Israel. In an interview with Jack Katzenell he said he is always telling the Palestinians they will have to give up violence and negotiate with Israel. However, he did not think the Israeli peace plan can work because he thought it begins from the wrong end: What measure of autonomy Israel is prepared to give. Hurd stressed that the Arabs must offer Israel credible security before withdrawal and that territory is one of the issues that must be discussed. Hurd rejected the suggestion that the Temple Mount riot was premeditated, saying this was prejudging the investigation.

[Begin recording] [Hurd] And I am sorry that it needed the....[changes thought] I am sorry that the tragedy erupted when it did because it certainly will have distracted attention from the need to get the aggressor out of Kuwait.

[Katzenell] In the three years of the intifadah, has it never crossed your mind that the organizers of the intifadah view the blood of young Palestinians as an instrument of their policy? Why has there never been any criticism of the Palestinian side—neither in the case of the Temple Mount tragedy, the throwing of rocks down on worshipers, nor in the three years of the intifadah itself?

[Hurd] Well we condemn violence by either side, and I have just done so again this afternoon here in Jerusalem, so there is no doubt about that. But at the end of the day, you know, obviously there is not going to be a military solution to the intifadah. There is going to need to be a political solution. Now, this is something you debate in Israel every day. You have a powerful democratic debate on this very point. And we would simply say: do not suppose that this is going to be settled simply by peace treaties with new Arab states.

[Katzenell] In 1981 Britain was among the countries which roundly condemned Israel for destroying the nuclear reactor of Saddam Husayn. In the light of what has been learned since about his ambitions, do you not think that perhaps Israel deserves an apology if not a vote of thanks? Did it work?

[Hurd] Did it work? No, I think to be serious if Saddam Husayn were to comply with Security Council resolutions and withdraw to Baghdad, he would still have the potential for dangerous attacks, and that is something which we would all have to work out—how that was to be contained and reduced—and this is something which I have discussed here.

[Katzenell] But do you not think that Israel's contribution was very important?

[Hurd] Well I would not myself think that, but historians will argue no doubt unsuccessfully on that point. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Leaves After Three-Day Visit

TA1810092290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left Israel after a three-day visit. Earlier today he conferred with Defense Minister Moshe Arens. The minister did not make any statement at the airport and only thanked his hosts with a handshake before boarding the aircraft.

Papers Comment on Hurd Visit, UK Foreign Policy

Role in UN Resolution Criticized

TA1810104190 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Mr. Hurd's Visit"]

[Text] The Israeli leaders from whom British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is taking leave today are under acute world pressure, for which their visitor is at least partly responsible. For it was on his instructions that Britain's emissaries to the UN pressured the U.S. administration into acceding to a much tougher resolution on the Temple Mount rioting than the U.S. ambassador had originally proposed.

That the resolution completely ignores the premeditated attack on Jewish worshippers at the Western Wall is due to British insistence. Worse, wary of offending Arab sensibilities in a way reminiscent of British formulations in the 1930s, it avoids even mentioning Jews or the Western Wall. It "expresses alarm at the violence which took place on 8 October at the al-Haram al-Sharif and other Holy Places of Jerusalem, resulting in over 20 Palestinian deaths, and to the injury of more than 150 people, including Palestinian civilians and innocent worshippers." Thus, the Western Wall is "other Holy Places" and one can only assume that the Jews are the anonymous "innocent worshippers." Perhaps one should be grateful that the city in question is called by its Biblical name Jerusalem, rather than al-Quds.

The resolution also calls on Israel, as the occupying power, to abide by its obligations in all the "occupied territories." To avoid misunderstanding, this month's Security Council president, British delegate David Hannay, formally clarified the meaning of "territories occupied by Israel since 1967." "These words include Jerusalem," he recorded in the resolution. Not East Jerusalem, not the part of Jerusalem once occupied by Jordan, but "Jerusalem." One wonders if, by designating the whole city "occupied territory," the British Foreign Office wanted to make quite sure that Israel would be unable to accept the resolution.

Mr. Hurd has repeatedly accused Israel of being a "brutal, oppressive occupying power." Among other crimes, it is guilty of "closing universities at whim, and building illegal settlements." It is to be hoped that he has now learned that none of his accusations is true. The Arab universities in "the territories" were in fact established by Israel where none had existed before, and they have been shut down only when they were used as centers of incitement and rioting to a degree that taxed even Israel's tolerance threshold. And, as the United States government and myriad international-law experts have conceded over the years, there is nothing illegal about the settlements.

Such accusations came as no surprise from a representative of a government which in May 1989 refused to sell Israel gas masks for children because "they can help a country develop an offensive capability," and which in July this year, a few days before the rape of Kuwait, stated it would sell Iraq furnaces which could be used for the production of nuclear weapons.

It was a little more surprising to read in a Hurd article published in London last Sunday that Israel "concedes no vital interest by agreeing to talk." Since Israel not only *agrees* to talk, but has been begging to talk with any and all the Arab regimes and with representatives of the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza, one can only surmise that what Mr. Hurd meant was that Israel should talk to the PLO. On October 6, he said that Britain was not prepared to talk with Iraq because "Saddam Husayn was not a man of his word. And we should remember that when he produces his next peace initiative." Is Israel to understand then that Hurd believes 'Arafat is a man of his word whose "peace initiative" should be taken seriously?

During his visit, and perhaps in consideration of his hosts' feelings, Hurd was ambiguous about the PLO. As a result, the Palestinian Arab leadership refused to meet with him. They said his support of Palestinian self-determination was insufficient, that he should have come out unequivocally for a Palestinian state. One suspects, however, that they resented even more his expression of disappointment with the PLO for its alliance with Saddam Husayn.

One assumes the government took note of his reservation about the PLO, and answered his demand for a fresh approach by reminding him of the unity government's peace plan of May, 1989. This calls for elections in the "territories," reinforcing the peace treaty with Egypt, implementing confidence-building measures with the Arab regimes, and constructing decent housing for Arab refugees. Its exclusion of the PLO should now seem wise even to those who have advocated Israeli talks with that organization.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Hurd's conciliatory tone during his visit, and his assertion that only Israel can determine its own security needs, reflect British policy more faithfully than does the language of UN resolution 672.

'Dual Position' Criticized

TA1710174890 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Oct 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Hurd...the Dual Position!!"]

[Text] At his meeting yesterday with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his foreign minister, David Levi, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd was not able to effect any change in the Israeli position, which was announced on the eve of Hurd's visit to Israel. This position rules out any sort of cooperation with the fact-finding delegation expected to be dispatched by the UN secretary general to the occupied territories on the basis of Security Council Resolution 672, to learn the facts about the events of 8 October at the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard.

Despite Shamir's and Levi's insistence on their positions—rejecting any sort of cooperation with an international delegation and, consequently, rejecting compliance with the UN resolution—the British minister, who was seething with rage in Cairo when threatening that Iraq would be forced out of Kuwait if it did not respond to UN resolutions, displayed unusual coolness when the case concerned Arab issues. Hurd merely expressed the hope that Israel would respond positively to the UN resolution and would cooperate with the fact-finding delegation.

Thus, when one hears Mr. Hurd's feverish and firm statements about Iraq, in case it refuses to cooperate with the international community and respond positively to the Security Council resolutions, and hears the shy tone of his talks with Israel's leaders, who for more than 40 years have refused to respond positively to the resolutions of international legitimacy, then one cannot but bristle at this dualism and hypocrisy in dealing with the conflict in the region.

The British minister does not fathom the facts nor see reality, when he rejects linkage between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem. Hurd and his lady, Thatcher, are aware that the tragedy of the Palestinian people is the product of a British crime perpetrated against these people. This requires a government whose foreign policy is designed by Mr. Hurd to be more eager regarding such a linkage.

If the British minister is really concerned about ending the Palestinian tragedy, giving the Palestinian people their legitimate rights, and implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, it is incumbent upon him to pursue firm policies toward Israel—which rejects the resolutions of international legitimacy—similar to those his government is pursuing toward Arab Iraq. It is also incumbent upon him to speed up the request for convening an international peace conference, in a bid to resolve all the region's crises simultaneously on the basis of the resolutions of international legitimacy, which are integral.

Otherwise, Hurd's pleasant remarks about the problem of the legitimate Palestinian rights will only be seen as mere sand in Arab eyes.

Police Possible Cause of Temple Mount Rioting

TA1810054890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] A new finding in the investigation of events on the Temple Mount: Jerusalem Police commanders say that when the violence began, they had no idea a group of 45 Border Police was on the Mount. They told Voice of Israel's Moshe Nussbaum it is possible that the presence of that unit was the main cause of the rioting.

Senior Jerusalem Police officers said they only became aware of the border guard unit when its members ran out through Moors Gate, after having been attacked and endangered by thousands of rioters. Some officers believe it was those border guards who opened fire with live ammunition and caused the high number of casualties.

The officers said that in the past, police were never stationed on the Temple Mount, in order to avoid provoking Arab worshipers. If a decision had been made to bring in such a force due to fear of expected unrest, they said they would have sent in several hundred police officers, and not only 45.

Meanwhile, the commission of inquiry into the Temple Mount violence continues to collect testimony. Today it will hear from police officers who were already questioned at the start of the week, as well as from former Police Commissioner David Krauss.

Jerusalem Police have opened their own investigation into the 21 deaths at the Temple Mount. Magistrate's Court Judge David Heshin has been appointed judge presiding over the investigation.

UK Embassy Clarifies Report on Hurd's Remarks

JN1810075790 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Oct 90 p 16

[Text] Amman—AL-DUSTUR has received a clarification from the British Embassy for what was published yesterday concerning statements made by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in Israel.

The Embassy clarification states that no news agency has quoted Mr. Hurd as saying he advised Israel to reject UN Security Council Resolution 672 and that this information is totally untrue. It points out that Britain played a principal role in formulating UN Security Council Resolution 672 and making it impossible for Hurd to urge Israel to reject it.

The clarification stresses that Britain's position on the Palestinian rights is very clear; namely, to support the principle of self-determination for Palestinians. The same position has been adopted by the other EC members. This means that the EC will be satisfied with any future arrangements which the Palestinians seek and negotiate, including the establishment of an independent state.

Israeli radio cited Israeli officials as saying that Mr. Hurd has said Britain opposes the establishment of the Palestinian state.

King Meets With Tunisian Envoy, Receives Message

JN1710213490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] At noon today at al-Nadwa Palace, His Majesty King Husayn received the Tunisian ambassador to Amman. The ambassador conveyed a message to his majesty from his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealing with Tunisia's contribution to the continuing Arab efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

King Cables Al-Hirawi on Peace in Beirut

JN1610194890 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1734 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Amman, 16 Oct (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn expressed the hope that fraternal Lebanon reclaims its unity and peace and that the unity of greater Beirut be a first step toward fulfilling Lebanese hopes.

This statement came in a cable sent today by his majesty to His Excellency Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi:

Your Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, God bless you. President of the Republic of Lebanon, Beirut

Along with all well-wishing people in this nation and those seeking to establish peace and security in our dear Arab homeland, we have followed Your Excellency's efforts to unite greater Beirut. As you do, we also await the day when fraternal Lebanon will reclaim its unity and security and peace and reconciliation will reign over its land and among its people. We ask Almighty God to make the unity of greater Beirut a first step toward realizing Lebanese hopes, as well as all our hopes, to put an end to the tragedy from which you and your united Arab nation in all parts have suffered.

We ask God to protect your steps along the way and give you strength to achieve the goals of the Lebanese brothers in a cherished and united homeland that will be dedicated to all its sons and future generations. Please accept my highest regards.

Your brother, Husayn Bin-Talal

Saudis Reportedly Block Transshipment of Goods

JN1810102490 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 18 Oct 90 Second Edition pp 1, 14

[By Ibrahim al-Kharshah]

[Text] Engineer 'Awad al-Tall, director of the Ports Corporation, has said the Jordanian shipping agents federation has informed the al-'Aqabah Port Authority that the authorities at the Saudi port at Jeddah have held back 72 containers of goods for Jordanian merchants and obstructed their shipment to the Jordanian port at al-'Aqabah. The federation also said the Saudi authorities took this measure without warning on the pretext that ships heading for al-'Aqabah must have advance permission from Saudi customs authorities before unloading their cargo in Jeddah for transshipment to al-'Aqabah.

Engineer al-Tall added that 18 containers belonging to the Jordanian Maritime Transport Company, Petra, are being held in Jeddah and the authorities at that port have refused to clear them.

Engineer al-Tall also said seven ships carrying imported goods to Jordan have laid anchor at al-'Aqabah in the past two days. They will leave port loaded with potassium and phosphate.

Prime Minister, Parliament Discuss Popular Army

JN1710205590 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] In Parliament today Prime Minister Mudar Badran met with a joint committee of the Senate and House of deputies, in the presence of the president and speaker of the two houses, to continue discussion on government measures concerning the popular desire to participate in efforts to strengthen Jordan's steadfastness.

The prime minister said that the government, under the directives of His Majesty Supreme Commander King Husayn, who ordered the activation of the Popular Army Law, issued instructions to the military body formed for this purpose to open additional training centers in various parts of the country so that able-bodied person can participate in defending the dear homeland.

He said that the current plan is to train secondary school, community college, and Jordanian university students, as well as factory workers so as not to disrupt the national economy in these dire circumstances. He hoped that during the next two weeks these arrangements would produce tangible results throughout the Kingdom.

The senators and deputies voiced their readiness to set up a fund into which every patriotic citizen would contribute according to his ability. The proceeds would assist the government's on the popular army, which can be joined by every citizen capable of carrying weapons between the ages of 16 and 55 years for males and 16 and 45 years for females.

It was agreed to set up a joint committee of Parliament and the government to gather contributions for strengthening the popular army and expanding and spreading its roots.

Editorial Views U.S., Israeli 'War Crimes'

JN1710101190 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
17 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "President Bush and the Nuremberg Trials"]

[Text] President Bush used an election campaign in Dallas to step up his offensive against fraternal Iraq and President Saddam Husayn. Bush has repeated his usual delusion that nations have no memory and that history can be written with slander and accusations. If he had been skilled in reading history and had respected the will of his people and other people in the world, the U.S. President would not have called for Nuremberg-type trials and President Saddam Husayn behind bars.

Many U.S. presidents deserve to be tried for war crimes. The United States used atomic bombs against Japanese civilians, not against the army, perpetrating the largest massacre in human history.

During the Korean and Vietnam wars, the United States also carried out terrible massacres. The U.S. Army bought every severed Vietnamese head for $50, and hands, legs, and ears at another price decided by Washington. American planes destroyed Vietnam with napalm, death, destruction, and proscribed weapons.

In Grenada, Panama, and Lebanon the targets of the U.S. missiles, planes, and warships were unarmed civilians, schools, hospitals, camps, and residential areas, which collapsed on their occupants.

Despite this, there were no new Nuremberg trials against the racist killers, whose thirst for blood matched that of Hitler, and whose main source of joy were reports of death and destruction by the U.S. Armed Forces. If we add to this black record the bloody, racist Zionist massacres, perpetrated under U.S. protection and with American weapons for four decades, we will find ourselves in the presence of a state that practices organized terrorism as a doctrine to oppress nations and mankind, while defending certain interests, monopolies, and the policies of looting and theft.

In Central and Latin America, American crimes are numerous. An international court ruled that the United States should pay $12 billion to Nicaragua in compensation for the destruction Washington caused to that country. They have not yet paid even a cent, although it is four years since the court issued its decision under international legitimacy, as President Bush himself says.

This Arab nation is too great to take lessons in ethics from killers and murderers. If there should be new Nuremberg trials—and we believe there should be—then the United States, Britain, and the racist Zionist entity—the three professional killers that committed bloody crimes against mankind—should be put behind bars.

This great Arab nation has begun to awake, and it will bear down hard on certain parties, launching an endless holy war until our world becomes a spacious home that can accommodate the one happy, human family.

This nation has a great record of defending its values, message, homeland, and dignity. The other side, killers whose black history is full of all kinds of massacres—including Hiroshima, which was not the first, and the al-Aqsa massacre, which will not be the last—also has a long record.

Column Examines British 'Double Standards'

JN1710152190 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

["A Word" column: "Is Hurd For or Against International Legitimacy?"]

[Text] British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd appears to echo Margaret Thatcher in stepping up the campaign against Iraq and implicitly against the Arabs. But that good pupil, who sometimes appears to be abandoning diplomacy and becoming British defense secretary, does not stop urging the use of force "to discipline Iraq." This is similar to Thatcher's statement in the House of Commons that she will teach Iraq an unforgettable lesson. We do not believe this will happen.

What Hurd said before the Israeli Knesset and reporters at the beginning of his visit yesterday was much more arrogant and rude. He was very kind to his Israeli hosts when he stressed his rejection of establishing a Palestinian state. But, when in Cairo, he did not respect his Egyptian hosts when he used arrogant language and threats against Iraq, a fraternal country.

Yesterday Hurd appeared as the new Balfour. While the first Balfour promised to establish a national homeland for the Jews in Palestine, the second Balfour promises that the Palestinians will not to reestablish their state in Palestine.

Hurd went too far when he urged Yitzhaq Shamir to reject, part and parcel, UN Security Council Resolution

672 on the Israeli massacre at al-Aqsa Mosque. However, he advised Shamir to receive the international investigating mission so that Israel would not appear to be challenging international law.

We were not surprised by Hurd's position, because it was part of Balfour's original plan. However, we disapprove of the great contradiction between Britain's death-defying efforts to peddle the current UN Security Council resolution and the position of the chief British diplomat calling for ignoring that resolution and urging Israel to accept the resolution only to laugh at the Arabs and world public opinion.

But the poison came from Shamir himself, who categorically rejected the proposal, the Security Council resolution, and the international mission.

Hurd's position reveals a clear contradiction in the British and Western positions on the issue of international legitimacy. As they send armies to guarantee the implementation of the Security Council resolutions against Iraq, they do not so against Israel, which challenges the international will. On the contrary, they encourage it to defy that will, which means that Israel can commit more massacres against the Palestinian people, preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state, while it is reassured that it will not receive any severe punishment as is inflicted on Iraq.

The West's concepts of human justice and human rights have become timeworn and meaningless, because they deal with matters through contradiction and double standards.

Editorials Question Israeli Response to UN

AL-DUSTUR

JN1710123590 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Oct 90 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Israel Challenges the World"]

[Text] The question is raised: Will the Security Council accept Israel's legal sovereignty over the holy al-Aqsa Mosque and will the United Nations submit to Israel's decision to annex Arab Jerusalem? Will the world surrender to the new Israeli defiance or will it avoid this by the necessary international firmness to implement the civilized legitimacy resolutions within the framework of what has been set out concerning "the new world order"?

As expected, the Israeli Government rejected Security Council Resolution 672 and announced that it would not cooperate with the committee to be dispatched by the UN secretary general, particularly since this committee will submit its recommendations on ways to protect the Palestinian civilians in the occupied territory to the Security Council.

Israel's rejection of the new Security Council resolution did not surprise anyone in the region, particularly since the resolution entails a new assertion by the United Nations that Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied Palestinian territory. This is contrary to all Israeli claims on this holy city, whose annexation the entire world refuses to recognize, or its being the eternal capital of united Israel.

Hence, Israel's official and declared rejection of all the articles in the Security Council resolution means that this state, which is known for its disregard of international will, has decided anew to challenge the entire world and to stand in the face of the international community which condemned—in rare unanimity—the policy of savage repression practiced against defenseless citizens who only want freedom and salvation from criminal foreign occupation.

Israel is aware that its challenge of the world entails a tacit challenge to the position of the United States which, this time, joined the international community. However, the adherence of the Zionist right-wing extremists to their declared positions on the issue of Jerusalem made them directly reject international will and attempt to test the firmness of the international unanimity, which based on the American initiative that first drafted Security Council Resolution 672.

Thus, we now ask whether Israel can defeat the entire world, whether Israeli stubbornness will dissuade the UN Security Council from carrying the fact-finding mission through to the end, and whether the five major powers themselves will again be incapable of implementing an international resolution related to a proposal on the means to protect a people who are under the yoke of a savage occupation.

There is no doubt that the U.S. position will be put to the test in the next few days, particularly since Washington is the one which drafted the Security Council resolution that Israel refuses to deal with and announces that it will completely ignore. In addition, Israeli officials claim that the resolution consitututes an interference in their internal affairs, which previously announced that Jerusalem is its eternal capital.

In light of all this, and in accordance with political precedences, it will be painful for everybody in this part of the world if, within two weeks, Washington begins to back off gradually from its declared position in the Security Council so as to satisfy Israel and its friends in Congress. This will enable Israel to ignore the international consensus and mock the Security Council resolutions, even if America agrees to them.

The Arab hope remains that the United States will now refrain from using double-standard criteria when dealing with human rights.

The United States agreed to the recent Security Council resolution, which is fragile and incomplete, simply to maintain the alliance it is leading in the Gulf and for fear of a possible split in the unjust stand toward sisterly Iraq.

AL-RA'Y

JN1810085390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Oct 90 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "International Legitimacy and U.S.-Zionist Legitimacy"]

[Text] As always, the Zionist entity has replied to international legitimacy by brazenly defying it. Thus, it has placed before the whole world that Israeli legitimacy, backed by U.S. legitimacy, is the one which should be respected. If it happens that any party rejects this, then it will be imposed on him through blockade, force, threats, invasion, and aggression.

The Zionist entity will not listen to the advice of its Arab friends nor does it care about appeals from its U.S. ally. Moreover, its position on Security Council Resolution 672 is consistent with its stands on other resolutions of this international body—namely, ignoring or rejecting them—and Washington or London having little power to mobilize the world against them or to call for new resolutions that may evoke Israeli anger or hurt their feelings.

The Zionist entity has declared that the Security Council resolution infringes on its internal affairs and challenges its sovereignty. The killing of Palestinians inside the al-Aqsa Mosque courtyard is an internal Israeli affair that has nothing to with international legitimacy. Moreover, no one has the right to object to this action or even investigate it, as demanded by Resolution 672. If, however, the UN secretary general insists on dispatching an investigative committee to Palestine, the Israeli authorities, as they declared, will lay siege to this committee and will not permit it to carry out its mission. There has been no comment by the owners of the fleets which are besieging Iraq and starving its children in accordance with international legitimacy, except for a diffident statement by the U.S. secretary of state that the "Israeli stand might harm Israel".

We are pleased with the issuance of Resolution 672 because it stopped the series of resolutions against Iraq and put the international community face to face with the double standards that are employed to deal with our pan-Arab and Islamic interests and those of the Zionist enemy. It took Washington six days to approve the issuance of this resolution without hurting Zionist feelings or dealing with what took place in the courtyard of the al-Aqsa Mosque as a racist massacre. The resolution was issued, and the Zionist entity added it to its archives.

Arabs and Muslims are now awaiting the next move from Washington, London, Paris, and Moscow; not to express their true respect for real international legitimacy, but to show some respect for their signatures on Resolution 672.

We do not want the leaders in these capitals to condemn the Zionist entity for its racist massacres, nor protest the organized killing committed inside the al-Aqsa Mosque. But we want moral standards to be applied—the standards with which they plagued us while talking about the Gulf crisis. We know in advance that this is noty likely to happen, because there is a distance between the killer and the victim. The Zionist entity, which stands in the trenches of killers, can only receive encouragement from them to pursue the slaying and starving of Palestinians.

If the Zionist entity views the arrival of a committee to investigate a massacre as interference in its internal affairs, how then, can we describe the presence of more than 20 armies in the Gulf region with the sole purpose of preparing to strike Iraq? Is this not also interference in internal affairs?

Al-Hirawi Discusses National Unity in Interview

JN1710164890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 17 Oct (SANA)—Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi has stressed that the Lebanese Government, now that 'Awn has fallen, is serious about implementing all the articles of the peace document—a document that I [al-Hirawi] took the constitutional oath to implement regardless of any reports and rumors in this regard.

In an interview with the newspaper TISHRIN published today, President al-Hirawi said that among the document's major articles are those to unite Lebanon, spread the government's authority all over the Lebanese soil, and prepare the Army for deployment in occupied and tormented southern Lebanon. Thus, the State of Lebanon would be able to ask the United Nations to implement Resolution No. 425, in addition to other articles on drafting a comprehensive security plan for all Lebanon, to begin by dissolving the militias, confiscating their weapons, controlling all utilities and ports, reactivating all institutions, and giving the Lebanese people what they have hoped for. The State of Lebanon will also call on all those who were deported or evacuated to return to their homeland because we are in dire need of these citizens, and will stabilize the economic situation so that the development and construction plan may be launched.

He added: I am confident that such a program requires expanding or forming a new government that encompasses all groups to adopt such historic resolutions. I sense that sisterly Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, is fully ready to support the Lebanese State, regardless of the sacrifices.

President al-Hirawi thanked President Hafiz al-Asad, the Syrian leadership, and the Syrian Arab Army for helping Lebanon end its division and the ordeal it has been going through for 16 years.

He said: In the future, we want to restore stability to our suffering homeland so we can play an effective role within our Arab family and in international fora. Hence, through the help of sisterly Syria and the Arab states, which assigned this task to the Tripartite Committee on Lebanon, we would be able to resume our effective Arab and international role.

The Lebanese president added that economic deterioration, the dismemberment of the institutions, the need to resume control over a dear part of Lebanon, and to unify the Lebanese Army to build and develop tormented Lebanon prompted the cabinet to extend a request to sisterly Syria, which in compliance with al-Ta'if agreement pledged to support the national Lebanese Army in spreading the government's sovereignty over all Lebanese soil. The military operation on the morning of Saturday 13 October has eradicated the rebellion, unified the Army, and spread the government's sovereignty over this dear part of the country.

He added: I am pained by what took place and the result in terms of human losses to the two fraternal armies; however, there is no harm in shedding blood if the entire homeland is to be saved. There are reports about violations that took place after the battle. It is natural for such violations to take place. These violations, in terms of military and civilian casualties and destruction of property, are nothing compared with the security and stability established.

President al-Hirawi stressed that the Lebanese Army, which is cooperating fully with the fraternal Syrian Arab Army, is now combing the area to prevent any danger to people's life and possessions. This, in essence, is the sacred and national task now being carried out by the two armies.

Al-Huss Says 'Awn Asylum 'Peripheral Issue'

NC1810100390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Answering a question about the issue of 'Awn's taking refuge at the French Embassy and the results of contacts in this regard, Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has said: The refuge issue does not warrant all the clamor that has been raised about it. In any event, we will not allow it to affect in any way our good relations with a large friendly state like France.

He said: France's policy toward Lebanon is clear, positive, and sound, despite the occasional comments by some opposition political and media circles. He added: The French president has expressed France's position toward Lebanon very well. In our view, this is what is important. As for 'Awn's presence in the French Embassy in Lebanon, this is a peripheral issue which should not have any effect on the nature of the relations between the two countries. It is no longer permissible to allow this issue to take up any more of our officials' and citizens' time. He explained: There are many issues and problems facing us which must take priority in our concerns at this stage. Let us put aside the issue of 'Awn and his refuge- taking, and leave this issue to be resolved in a friendly and calm manner with France.

Ja'ja' States Plan To Extend Government Authority

NC1710181990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stressed the need for the Lebanese legitimacy to affirm its authority over the al-Matn areas and to dispel the infiltrating militiamen from these areas, thus giving the Lebanese legitimacy credibility and reassuring the public.

In an interview with the German Television Network [not further specified], Ja'ja' said that only the legitimate army must immediately control the al-Matn areas. Then, the formation of a national unity government, comprising all Lebanese parties, must be expedited. It will be the duty of such a government to endorse and implement a comprehensive security plan for all Lebanon, including the greater Beirut area, to extend the Lebanese state's authority over all the territories, he added.

The Lebanese Forces commander concluded by saying: We have no conditions for entering the government, and we will do our utmost to move Lebanon from a state of war to one of peace.

Army Deploys To Restrain Militia Violence

NC1710205590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The Lebanese Army has deployed from al-Mukallis to Nahr al-Mawt and on the coastal road up to Nahr al-Kalb. Armed groups belonging to the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] and Elie Hubayqah retreated to the interior of the al-Matn region, though one SSNP group remained stationed in the Cafe de Paris building on the coastal road. Military sources, however, have explained to our radio that the legitimate Army will deploy to the interior of the al-Matn region in the next few hours and if necessary, use force to complete this deployment. This is because a final and firm decision has been made to restrain the militias and to put an end to their excesses.

Minister Affirms Western Hostages To Be Released

LD1710134490 Paris Antenne 2 Television in French 1200 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The Lebanese minister of agriculture has affirmed that 13 Western hostages held by Shiite extremists in Lebanon will soon be released.

Al-Musawi Rejects Linking 'Awn, Hizballah Fates

NC1610113090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] [Hizballah official] His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has said that linking Hizballah's destiny to that of Michel 'Awn is unrealistic. It is the creation of the media and political analysts who did so in the hope that problems will one day erupt with Hizballah after 'Awn's elimination.

His eminence added: There are fundamental differences between us and Michel 'Awn over the al-Ta'if agreement. 'Awn objected to the agreement out of nothing but Maronite fanaticism, because he wanted to preserve the privileges of his sect. We, on the other hand, set out to confront Maronism and the Maronite hegemony which al-Ta'if consecrated. He emphasized that Maronism is the root of all Lebanon's problems.

Al-Musawi asserted that 'Awn is no less fanatical than Ja'ja'. It was 'Awn, [former President] Amin al-Jumayyil's friend, who destroyed the suburb. With 'Awn's elimination, the obstacle of fanatical Maronism has been removed from our path. Rather than adopting the current step-by-step approach, we have to resume the march until the system and the constitution are changed radically, he said. He explained that the gradual approach can work in terms of implementation, but the amendment of the system and the constitution must be radical.

Turkey's Ozal Arrives in Damascus, Meets Al-Asad

JN1710125690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Excerpts] Turkish President Turgut Ozal arrived in Damascus at 1230 today on a visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted].

At Tishrin Palace, President al-Asad and President Ozal held a meeting. It was attended on the Syrian side by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Vice President Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Syrian Ambassador to Turkey 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i. On the Turkish side, the meeting was attended by the members of the accompanying delegation and the Turkish ambassador to Damascus.

Resumes Talks 18 Oct

JN1810102890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0940 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 18 Oct (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad and Turkish President Turgut Ozal resumed their talks in a closed meeting at the Presidential Palace at 0930 today.

The talks revolved around the situation resulting from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the general situation in the Middle East, and relations between the two countries.

Ozal Says Gulf Nations Want Turkish Involvement

TA1710180090 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Kandemir Alphan report]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] In a news conference with Turkish journalists in Damascus today, President Turgut Ozal commented on his tour. He explained that his talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo revealed that the two countries share the same views concerning the Gulf crisis. Ozal said: After having visited three Gulf countries and Egypt, I can summarize my impression as follows: Almost everyone wants Turkey's reputation in the region and its involvement in regional matters to continue. Moreover, Turkey enjoys a significant reputation in the region. I was pleased to observe this.

The president remarked that the necessary will to improve economic relations with Syria also exists. Ozal then held a meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The Syrian president will host a dinner for Ozal tonight.

Commentary Considers Relations With Turkey

JN1710154290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] As we receive Turkish President Turgut Ozal in Damascus today, we find it useful to review a long history that connects the two neighboring countries, Syria and Turkey. Over the years, this history has witnessed advanced relations that were marred at times by obstacles that Damascus and Ankara have overcome; this was out of a sincere desire to build a peaceful basis for close cooperation dictated by their position as neighbors and the needs imposed by history, geography, and common interests both here and there.

Apart from the role that Turkey and Syria might play in this region and its events, the two countries relations are characterized by an exclusiveness that has spanned most of this century. During that time, Syria and Turkey have been careful to draw up a clear horizon and prevent clouds of differences from disturbing it, based on our common interests and our joint contribution toward providing suitable circumstances for the region's stability and maintaining world peace and security.

Therefore, President Ozal's visit to Damascus today will contribute toward renewing determination to crystallize this horizon and advance the course of bilateral relations in the same spirit of care and sincere desire that has joined us during the bright periods of our history. What prompts us to believe in the usefulness and importance of the Damascus meetings today is that Syria, under the leadership of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, has always left the door open for those who extend the hand of friendship and cooperation to it. Syria has always made it clear to near and far alike that it believes in dialogue as a feasible means of building the best kind of ties between any two states, no matter how deep their differences might be.

Undoubtedly, today's talks in Damascus, given the threats that are overwhelming the entire region under the pressure of the Gulf crisis, will continue to exchange views between the two neighboring states on the best means of sparing the region from the woes of war that are looming on the horizon. Turkish-Syrian efforts will be added to those endeavors aimed at securing Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and restoring its legitimate government, thus, affirming right, supporting justice, and upholding international law, which does not permit anyone to occupy the territory of others by force.

The Damascus summit today will, we hope, create a new phase in Damascus-Ankara relations, dispelling whatever clouds there may be and replace them with joint understanding serving our two interests and providing us and the region prosperity, security, and stability, perhaps for many years in the foreseeable future.

Al-Shar' Returns From Rabat Meetings

JN1710155190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after participating in the Jerusalem Committee meetings held in Rabat in Morocco.

Khaddam Confers With French Legislators

JN1810101890 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Damascus, 17 Oct (SANA)—Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1730 today (Michel Vozes), French National Assembly Foreign Relations Committee chairman, and (Jilan Gan), National Assembly member, in the presence of the French ambassador to Damascus.

They discussed the developments in the region, particularly the situation in the Gulf and in Lebanon.

Government Opinion on 'Awn

LD1810084890 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Syria does not see any disadvantage to General 'Awn's benefiting from political asylum in France: The Syrian vice-president said this yesterday to Michel Vauzelle, the president of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the National Assembly, who is currently visiting Damascus. This is a different point of view from the one expressed by the Lebanese Government, which hopes to have the former Christian leader brought before his country's courts. Negotiations are continuing between Paris and Beirut; yesterday the French Government repeated that it would never hand Michel 'Awn over.

Al-Shar' Receives Delegation

JN1810103190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received the visiting French National Assembly delegation led by Foreign Relations Committee Chairman (Michel Vozes). The delegation also includes Assembly member (Jilan Gan). The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, West European Desk Director Muhammad Khadr, and the French ambassador to Damascus.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on relations between Syria and France and the recent positive developments in Lebanon. Talks also centered on the Gulf crisis and security and cooperation issues in the Mediterranean basin.

Minister Rules Out Lebanon, Gulf Linkage

JN1710211590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Information Minister Muhammad Salman has said that a solution to the Gulf crisis should start with the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. The QATARI NEWS AGENCY quoted Mr. Salman as telling the Abu-Dhabi based AL-ITTIHAD today that we cannot ask the foreign forces to leave the region before the reasons for their arrival have been eliminated. This is Syria's position, and it has been highlighted by the media and through official contacts and discussions, he said.

Mr. Salman said the pressing Arab task at present is to engage in responsible action to remove the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait so that we all can turn to the main battle against the Zionist enemy. The Arab solution, he said, cannot be achieved except through a unified Arab position. Mr. Salman said all Arabs must now achieve genuine solidarity to counter the Zionist enemy, because the crucial battle is the one with the Zionist enemy, while other battles are only marginal ones.

The minister said that the subjects of Lebanon and the Gulf crisis can not be linked. Syria's mission in Lebanon, he explained, is to protect and help the legitimate government extend its authority throughout Lebanon in accordance with the al-Ta'if agreement. The Iraqi Army, on the other hand, abolished Kuwaiti sovereignty in Kuwait. He said that the end to the aberration represented by 'Awn in Lebanon will help end the remaining problems in the country. He pointed out that the Gulf crisis is one of the obstacles hindering the activity of the Lebanese legitimate authority.

On coordination between Syria and Egypt, the minister said the comprehensive cooperation agreement between the two countries in the economic, industrial, media, cultural, and educational fields is aimed at upgrading ties to their level during the unity of 1958. Mr. Salman said President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Tehran helped create a new climate for Iran's relations with the Gulf states and all other Arab countries.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Congratulates Gorbachev on Nobel Prize

LD1710000190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 90

["Congratulation message" from Afghan President Najibullah to USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev—read by announcer]

[Text] I express my most cordial congratulations for your winning the Nobel Prize, for which you deserve for your indefatigable efforts to ensure international understanding, to reduce the arms race, and search for the building of a new world, protected against the dangers of war. Enjoying the great confidence of the people of the Soviet Union due to your persistent work to implement the policy of reconstruction, openess, and democracy, you have gained credibility and authority for the Soviet Union and for yourselves personally. The awarding of the Nobel Prize to you is crystal evidence of this. While I am confident of the certain future of the consolidation of friendship and the future expansion of all-out Afghan-Soviet cooperation, from the bottom of my heart I wish you complete health and your and the people of the Soviet Union's successes.

Pakistani Charge Summoned To Receive Protest

LD1610225190 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The Department of Information and Publication of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reported to us that the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned at 1630 this afternoon. The ministry's strong protest was conveyed to him in a letter by the director of the First Political Department, as follows:

Authentic reports show that the authorities of the military government of Pakistan have recently expanded their acts of aggression against our country with the intention of carrying out clear acts of aggression and interference against the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Afghanistan. It is also reported that Gholam Ishaq Khan, president of Pakistan, has, in order to implement shameful militarist expansionism against the Republic of Afghanistan, summoned an Afghan opposition commander to Islamabad. Following that, a joint session of several leaders of armed opposition groups, including Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, a leader of Afghan extremists, and Pakistani military state senior officials was held to prepare the ground for extensive military operations designed to widen the aspects of fratricide in the Republic of Afghanistan even further.

While international efforts, including that of the United Nations, have gained more momentum for the political and peaceful solution of the situation around Afghanistan, the Government of Pakistan, in order to make the situation in this sensitive strategic region of the world even more tense, resorts to provocative acts. In this way it is, in contravention of international demands, preserving a threat to international peace and security. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan condemns such acts of interference by the authorities of the Government of Pakistan, which are completely against international norms and the Geneva agreements. Consequently, it is launching a strong protest. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan stresses that without timely prevention of such aggressive and interfering acts the responsibility for their grave consequences will definitely rest with the Government of Pakistan.

Wakil Protests to UN Over Pakistani Actions

LD1610230390 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Abdol Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, has sent a letter to the present chairman of the UN Security Council in New York about the renewal by Pakistan of violation of and aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. The message sheds light on the increasing role of the Pakistani militarists and the intelligence service of that country in designing, organizing, launching, and administering provocative military operations against Afghanistan. It requests the chairman of the Security Council to utilize his influence and opportunities to force Pakistan to cease its aggression and interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and also asks him to raise the issue with the members of the UN Security Council.

The letter goes on to say that if the present situation continues Afghanistan will be forced to ask for another special session of the UN Security Council to consider the crucial situation created by Pakistan. A previous session of the Security Council, convened in April 1989 at the request of Afghanistan, regarded discussion on the continuation of aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan as [word indistinct] ended to discuss the dangerous situation created by Pakistan.

The chairman of the Security Council has also been asked to publish this letter as an official UN document.

Efforts Under Way To Return Citizens From Kuwait

LD1710213790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Statements by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan]

[Text] On the basis of a previous announcement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs concerning citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan in Kuwait, once again we draw the attention of those compatriots whose families were living in Kuwait, to the following:

Regarding citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who are wishing to return to the homeland via the borders of

the Islamic Republic of Iran, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, in consideration of historical and Islamic ties between the peoples of the two countries, has raised the issue with the authorities of that country through the charge d'affaires of the embassy of the Republic of Afghanistan in Tehran and the charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Kabul. The Iranian side so far has issued the necessary visas to a number of Afghans and promised to issue visas for the remaining Afghans.

As regarding the assets of the citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan deposited in Kuwaiti banks, instructions have been given to the ambassador of the Republic of Afghanistan in Baghdad to raise the issue with the Iraqi authorities and to draw their attention to this matter.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs contacted and discussed the matter with a number of international organizations, including the UN High Commission for Refugees and the International Red Cross and has sought their assistance for the citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who have suffered a loss due to the Gulf crisis. For example, 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs sent a message addressed to Sadruddin Agha Khan, coordinator of the UN economic and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan and coordinator of refugees caused by the Gulf crisis: the message drew the attention of his excellency to the provision of necessary assistance to those citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan who were living in the Gulf region.

In reply, His Excellency Sadruddin Agha Khan has said that he was fully aware of the conditions of Afghan citizens who had been working in Kuwait. In visiting the northern borders of Iran he met a number of their representatives and extended necessary assistance via the office of the UN High Commission for Refugees in Tehran in order to assist the refugees in their speedy transfer to their chosen regions for rehabilitation. The untiring and constant efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the political representatives in the relevant countries, are being continued.

Rebel Clashes With Government Forces Continue

Forces Inflict 'Heavy Losses'

LD1710201690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Units of the General Command of Kabul Garrison over the past three days have inflicted crushing strikes on the concentrations and positions of the extremists and have inflicted heavy losses on the enemies of the country and the people. The Military section of BAKHTAR reports: As a result of the strikes, dozens of extremists associated with the groups of Gulbuddin and Sayaf, the Wahabi, including their ringleaders, Shah Mahmud, Zalmay Tofan, Nuroddin, Karim, and Zalmzy, have been crushed and some others were injured.

By the same token three fortified positions in the south, 20 U.S. ground-to-ground Sakar rockets and 92 missile rockets [as heard] have been destroyed; and in the north one large arms and ammunition depot has been set ablaze by air raids. Explosions and fire in the depot continued for hours, and the explosions, flames and smoke could be heard and seen from long distances.

Rebel Missiles Hit Kabul

LD1710202590 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Four citizens of Kabul city were injured today as a result of four surface-to-surface missiles fired by extremists. The military section of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY reported that those injured were quickly moved to the hospitals where they are under intensive care.

These missiles were fired from the northern directions and hit the residential regions of 10th and 11th wards, also causing material losses to our compatriots.

Bangladesh

Authorities Close Two More Universities

BK1710144890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 17 (AFP)—Bangladesh authorities Wednesday closed two more universities for one month in the face of growing student agitation against the government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, sources here said. The Rajshahi University and the Agricultural University were closed in "view of the deteriorating law and order situation," the sources quoted an order as saying, adding that if needed the order could be extended.

The sources said the authorities had issued a new gazzette notification containing an ordinance to shut the schools. The students have been given until mid-Thursday to vacate their dormitories. The new ordinance, which became effective from Saturday, has been given the title of "educational institutions (peace- discipline) ordinance, 1990."

It said anybody violating or attempting to violate the ordinance would be sentenced to six months in prison or fined 1,000 taka (28 U.S. dollars) or both. Dhaka University, the Engineering and Technology University and the Jahangirnagar University were closed this week along with all other schools in the capital on similar grounds and under the same ordinance.

Student activists have fought pitched battles with police and damaged property worth millions of dollars during the past week when Bangladesh's major opposition groups launched an anti-government campaign with renewed vigour. At least nine people were killed and scores injured in violence linked to three strikes during the same period.

Feuding student leaders late Tuesday pledged to unite to bring success to the opposition's campaign and give up their political or idelogical differences. Analysts here said the pledge had possibly prompted the government to shut the schools and try to bring calm as students in the past have played an active role in major campaigns in this politically volatile country, including the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. Sources said several lawyers belonging to the opposition groups have started talks to find ways and means to challenge the government orders.

Teachers, Students Demand Universities Reopened

BK1810091590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0903 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Dhaka, Oct 18 (AFP)—Teachers and students have attacked government orders closing down five of Bangladesh's seven universities over the last week in face of mounting anti-government agitation. In separate statements published here Thursday they said it was a "conspiracy to destroy educational institutions" and demanded immediate withdrawal of the order.

The teachers of the Dhaka, Jahangirnagar, Rajshahi and Agriculture universities said the order violated the 1973 university ordinance. The government, meanwhile issued a new ordinance effective from Saturday, which says the authorities could shut schools for a minimum of one month and extend it if needed.

The ordinance titled, "Educational Institutions (Peace and Discipline), 1990", also said that it supersedes any other university ordinance. The teachers and students criticising the new ordinance said it violated the university autonomy.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, who is the chancellor of the universities, since seizing power in a 1982 bloodless coup has failed to enter any of the seven. Teachers and students have either not invited him or made it clear that he was unwelcome on their campuses.

Awami League To Intensify Antigovernment Action

BK1710140990 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Awami League Central Executive Committee in its meeting on Friday [12 October] resolved to further intensify the mass movement to remove the present government from power and establish a democratic government through a free and fair parliament elections.

Presided over by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina the meeting discussed the present political and economic situation in the country.

Awami League Central Executive Committee expressed deep concern over the price spiral of essential commodities that affected the fixed income group and the common people very badly. It bitterly criticised the government for its failure in controlling the market price and held the present regime responsible for destroying the national economy through rampant corruption. The meeting urged the people to demonstrate their no confidence against the present government and resist the price hike by observing half-day hartal [strike] on Tuesday.

Awami League Central Committee rejected the government Press Note isued on the 'Secretariat gherao' [siege] programme of the opposition and condemned the government for killings and repression. The committee said that the nation would not forgive this regime for its activities. It asserted that removal of the present government was the only solution to the political and economic crisis the nation was confronting today.

The meeting demanded dissolution of the present parliament. It asserted that a free and fair parliament election must be ensured under a neutral government to restore democratic and fundamental rights of the people.

India

Further Reportage on Dispute Over Shrine

Congress-I To Boycott Meeting

BK1710134790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The Congress-I is not participating in the meeting of the political parties on the Ram Jamnambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed Hindu Muslim shrine] issue being held in New Delhi today. The AICC [All India Congress-I Committee] spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that the party's parliamentary board met this morning and decided against joining the meeting. He said the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, has sent a letter to the prime minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, explaining the party's position. BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has already announced its decision not to participate in the meeting.

Meeting Calls for 'Status Quo'

BK1710145490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The all-party meeting on communal harmony has called for every effort to resolve the Ram Janambhhomi-Babri Masjid [disputed Hindu Muslim shrine] issue by peaceful and legitimate means. In a resolution adopted at its meeting in New Delhi today, it appealed to the people not to resort to any provocative action or take the law into their hands. It asks the government to take effective steps to maintain law and order. The meeting, which was presided by Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh, was attended by representatives of 20 parties. The Congress-I and the Bharatiya Janata Party did not take part.

Affirming its faith in basic principles of secularism, the resolution urged all concerned to ensure that communal harmony is maintained at all costs. It expressed profound

sorrow at the tragic loss of life and property in communal disturbances that have taken place in several areas.

The meeting assured the Hindus that their religious sentiments relating to the building of a temple shall be respected within the framework of law. However, it strongly felt that nothing should be allowed to hurt the feelings of the Muslim community and to disturb the status quo. The dispute should be settled through negotiations, failing which the verdict of the court should be respected.

BJP Threatens To Withdraw Support

BK1710161390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] says it will be constrained to withdraw support to the National Front government if it fails to allow the construction of a temple at the [Hindu-Muslim disputed] Ayodhya site or if it disrupts the rath yatra [chariot procession by BJP leader]. A resolution adopted at an emergency meeting of the party's national executive in New Delhi today also says that the rath yatra has come to symbolize, what it called, the sentiment of the people.

Later, addressing a news conference, the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, said it is for the government to decide whether a point of no return has been reached. Mr. Advani charged the government of Uttar Pradesh with adopting a confrontational attitude on the temple issue. He again maintained that the issue can be solved either through negotiations or by a government decision backed by a legislation. He also said that the courts cannot adjudicate a sentimental issue involving a birthplace.

Replying to a question, the BJP president said the performance of the National Front government has been a total disappointment and all expectations have been belied. Mr. Advani said his party has taken an irrevocable stand now after trying all possibilities. He ruled out the BJP support to the Congress-I in case it is called upon to form an alternative government.

The BJP national executive criticized the government's economic and fiscal policies and said these have led to an increase in prices. It also said that the situation in Punjab and Kashmir has worsened because of the policies of the National Front government. Terrorism in Assam and Andhra Pradesh has not been checked. About the reservation [of jobs] for the backward classes, the meeting said that the government's decision was prompted by political expediency.

Janata Dal Rejects Compromise

BK1810093290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] The ruling Janata Dal has made it clear that it is prepared to face any consequences but will not compromise on the rule of law relating to the building of a temple at the disputed site in Ayodhya. The Political Affairs Committee [PAC] of the party met in New Delhi last night and took note of the BJP [Bharatiaya Janata Party] threat to withdraw support on the temple issue. Briefing newsmen after the 90-minute meeting of senior leaders, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said there is no scope for political maneuverability and give-and-take on this question. He said the PAC meeting endorsed the all-party resolution on the temple issue, which assures that the religious sentiments of the Hindus relating to Lord Rama and building of a temple at Ayodhya shall be respected within the framework of law.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has criticized the Bharatiya Janata Party for declaring that it will withdraw support to the National Front government if the proposed construction of the Ram Temple at Ayodhya is not allowed or the Rath Yatra [chariot journey undertaken by BJP President Advani] is disrupted. In a statement in Calcutta yesterday, the chief minister said that a political solution to the problem will have to be found as no government can accept this sort of challenge.

The Bihar chief minister, Mr. Lalu Prasad Yadav, has urged the BJP president, Mr. L.K. Advani, to give up his Rath Yatra in the national interest. He told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Patna yesterday that the route chosen by the BJP in areas like Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Bihar Sharif, and Sitamarhi is not good, as these areas are communally sensitive. He said that if Mr. Advani really has no ulterior motive, he should give up the idea of undertaking the yatra through the sensitive areas. He, however, asserted that all positive steps will be taken to maintain communal harmony in the state.

Hindu Council Urged To Honor Ruling

BK1710163790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Excerpts] The all-party meeting on communal harmony has called for every effort to resolve the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed Hindu Muslim shrine] issue by peaceful and legitimate means. In a resolution adopted at its meeting in New Delhi today, it appealed to the people not to resolve to any provocative action or to take the law into their hands. [passage omitted]

The resolution further says that the meeting expects the Vishwa Hindu Parishad [World Hindu Council] to honor its commitment made in September last year to abide by the directive of the Allahabad High Court that the parties to the suit shall maintain the status quo and shall not change the nature of the property in question. The meeting welcomed the government's proposal to approach the high court to appoint a special bench for expeditious hearing of the case.

Regretting the absence of the Congress-I and the BJP [Bharatiiya Janata Party], the meeting appealed to the two parties to join others in finding a solution to the vexed question.

In his remarks, the prime minister referred to the tense situation arising out of the controversy and outlined the

steps taken by the government to maintain law and order. He said the government is committed to maintain the status quo in the disputed area as per the court's order. He informed the meeting that 200 companies of paramilitary forces have been dispatched to Uttar Pradesh and some additional forces to Bihar at the request of the state governments.

Briefing newsmen, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. P. Upendra, said that during the discussions members from all the parties regretted the absence of the BJP and the Congress-I at such an important meeting. Some parties even questioned the attitude of the Congress-I to the whole issue. The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant Sahay, was also present at the briefing.

The Congress-I says it stands by the resolution adopted at the Madras session of the National Integration Council [NIC], but did not participate in today's all-party meeting because of, what it called, the government's failure to take follow-up action on the resolution. The party president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, in a letter to the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. Upendra, also accused the government with not securing the acceptance of the BJP to the NIC resolution. The Uttar Pradesh government has cautioned the people not to be misled by the rumors being spread by certain elements to create tension and violence in the state. At a press release issued in Lucknow today, the government urged the people to maintain peace and communal harmony at all costs. Meanwhile, reports received in Lucknow said that the preventive arrests in apprehension of breach of peace are being made in several districts. The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court today dimsissed a writ petition relating to the parikrama mela [Hindu festival] beginning on the 27th of this month in Ayodhya. The petitioner had sought a stay on banning the parkrama mela.

President's Rule Revoked; Karnataka Chief Named

BK1710125490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Excerpts] In Karnataka, the eight-day old president's rule has been revoked clearing the deck for the restoration of a popular government in the state. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, signed the proclamation to this effect in New Delhi this afternoon. Earlier, the union Council of Ministers had considered the report of the state governor on the present political situation in the state and had recommended the revocation of president's rule.

Our Bangalore correspondent, Krishnamurthy, quoting Raj Bhavan [Governor's House] sources, says that the swearing in of the newly elected Congress-I legislative party leader, Mr. S. Bagarappa, as chief minister will take place this evening. [passage omitted]

A message just received says that Mr. S. Bangarappa has been sworn in as the chief minister of Karnataka. The governor, Mr. Bhanupratap Singh, administered the oath of office and secrecy to him at a function in Bangalore a short while ago.

Iran

Kuwaiti Nationals Cross Border, Seek Refuge

LD0810124790 Tehran IRNA in English 1113 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Oct. 8 (IRNA)—Some 1,358 Kuwaiti nationals crossed into Iran via the southern border of Shalamcheh Sunday and Monday, bringing to 5,297 the number of Kuwaitis who have fled to Iran over the past few days. The refugees have all rejected an Iraqi demand that they change their identity cards into Iraqi ones.

The newly-arrived group entered Iran in 429 cars and six minibuses. Over the same period, 47 Iranian nationals and 21 Pakistanis, Iraqis and Afghans residing in Kuwait have arrived in Iran.

Refugees 'Stream' Across

LD1110035690 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Ahvaz, Oct. 10, IRNA—Some 1,760 Kuwaiti nationals whose country was invaded by Iraq on August ? have poured into the Islamic Republic through the Shalamcheh crossing on the Iraqi border, over the past 24 hours.

The fresh influx of refugees raised to 10,000 the number of Kuwaitis who have flocked into Iran via Shalamcheh since September 25. Kuwaitis unwilling to accept Iraqi nationality and change their identity cards as ordered by Baghdad, are continuing to stream into the Islamic Republic.

Transportation Minister Departs for Moscow

LD1110030190 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Road and Transport Minister Mohammad Sa'idi-Kia left for Moscow today at the head of a delegation to attend the joint meeting of Iranian and Soviet road and transport ministers.

An expert team led by Deputy Road and Transport Minister 'Ali Fard is already in Moscow since last Thursday [4 Oct] to make preparations for the ministerial session. The two countries are expected to ink a letter of understanding in the field of transportation at the end of the ministerial meeting.

Returns From USSR Visit

NC1610122290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The transfer of cargo to Baku via the Astara border crossing as well as the start of operations of the Baku-Tehran bus route and the Tehran-Moscow passenger train were among the topics on which agreement was reached between our country's roads and transportation minister and Soviet officials. Mr. Sa'idi-Kia, who visited the Soviet Union to discuss expanding transportation cooperation

between the Soviet Union and Iran, spoke to correspondents after returning home. Referring to the transfer of cargo by Iranian trucks to Baku through the Astara border crossing, he noted that the necessary agreements had also been reached with Soviet officials on transit routes for trucks from the two countries that are headed for other countries, as well as on the improvement of the Sarakhs and Bajgiran passes and on the transfer of Iranian trucks traveling to Europe by Soviet rail cars.

The minister of roads and transportation added that a Baku-Tehran and Tehran-Baku bus route will become operational soon. Aeroflot will also start its second flight a week to our country on the condition that mutual interests are ensured. Mr. Sa'idi-Kia said: During the next three months, Iran will rent a Soviet passenger plane which it will purchase if it proves efficient. Also, talks were held on granting permission to aircraft from the two countries to fly over each other's territory on their flights to other parts of the world.

As for the expansion of cooperation between the Iranian and Soviet railways, he said that during the next few months a number of passenger cars are to be purchased under a renewable 10-year lease and that effective 1 January 1991 the Tehran-Moscow passenger train which will pass through Baku is to become operational.

He added that during this visit an agreement on completing the studies on the construction of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway was also signed.

Soviet Envoy Delivers Report on Gulf Situation

LD1710150490 Tehran IRNA in English 1427 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct 17 (IRNA)—Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Vaezi-Jazai was presented a report from Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the Persian Gulf situation by the Soviet ambassador here today. Vladimir Goudev also briefed Vaez-Jazai on the recent visit to Baghdad of a special Soviet envoy, and said the Soviet leadership attached importance to the Islamic republic's key role in the Persian Gulf.

The Soviet ambassador sought Iran's help in finding a peaceful solution to the Persian Gulf crisis sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait and worsened by the massing of alien forces in the region. Vaezi-Jazai who handles Euro-American affairs at the Foreign Ministry, expressed hope that the crisis would be resolved peacefully through cooperation of regional states and in the interest of peace and security of the region and the world. He underlined the need for an unconditional pull-out of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and of foreign forces from the Persian Gulf Region.

Nurbakhsh Discusses Joint Economic USSR Talks

LD1810090290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Interview with Mohsen Nurbakhsh, Iranian minister of economy and finance, by unidentified correspondent after Nurbakhsh's return from Soviet Azerbaijan; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Nurbakhsh, you led a delegation of Islamic Republic of Iran officials to Soviet Azerbaijan and held talks with that country's officials and local officials of Soviet Azerbaijan. Could you please explain what these talks were about and what was concluded?

[Nurbakhsh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, we were mainly pursuing two objectives: to review what we had agreed on in the previous joint commission, steps taken so far, and measures to be taken in the future; and to assess border transactions, particularly between Soviet Azerbaijan and the neighboring provinces.

In our review of past activities, several main points were agreed upon, the main one being on transporting gas through the Soviet Union to the East European countries. The Soviet officials declared their full agreement with this issue. They told us that the primary works, in the agreement and technologically, should be arranged in a way so that it can be implemented within a defined period.

In addition, various projects on building power stations and dams, which were supposed to have reached the implementation stage, were reviewed, and it was agreed to remove the possible obstacles in a manner that these projects can be implemented in time.

Finally, the two countries' officials reiterated and stressed the importance of the border transactions issue, in general, which is to be implemented. Along with the discussion on border transactions, we further discussed the matter with officials of Soviet Azerbaijan. The officials of Soviet Azerbaijan are very eager to go ahead with such transactions, and, ultimately, a memorandum of understanding was signed, on the basis of which the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan and neighboring provinces—that is, the East Azerbaijan, West Azerbaijan, and Gilan Provinces—can start these transactions.

An exhibition is to be set up in Baku, which will mainly display Iran's exclusive products from the said provinces. I think that we will reach a considerable volume and figure in the border transactions.

Commentary Views Economic Ties With USSR

LD1710215590 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The first round of economic talks between Iran and the Soviet Union opened in the Soviet Azerbaijani capital of Baku with the arrival of Iran's Minister of

Economic Affairs and Finance, Dr Nurbaksh, yesterday afternoon. It is reported that during the Iranian team's visit, matters relating to economic, commercial and cultural cooperation including border trade between Iranian provinces and the neighboring Soviet republics will be discussed by the two sides.

Economic ties between Iran and the Soviet Union have entered a new phase since President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to that country in June '89. During that visit a memorandum of understanding in economic, scientific, technical, and cultural affairs until the year 2000 was signed by the two countries' officials. This protocol embodies expansion of ties in all spheres. Since the conclusion of this protocol, a mutual consent on expanding economic ties has taken place in a number of meetings between the two countries' economic officials for determining the manner of economic cooperation.

Amongst the latest contacts between these officials mention can be made of the Soviet deputy and the (?energy minister) to Tehran early this month. During that visit the two countries reached an accord on starting the executive operations of two dams and several power stations in Iran. Also, early this week, a protocol on cooperation in transportation affairs was signed within the framework of the memorandum of understanding for economic cooperation until the year 2000 signed by Iran's Minister of Roads and Transportation in the course of his visit to the Soviet Union. During the Iranian Minister's visit a number of accords were reached between Iran and the Soviet Union. Some of these important agreements are: the number of passenger trains serviced between Tehran and Moscow early next year, participation by the two countries in laying a railway linking Mashhad and Sarakhs in Iran, purchase of 200 freight train wagons by Iran, increase in passenger flights between Tehran and Moscow, and movement of Iranian trucks on the Astara-Baku road.

In continuation of this very process, Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance is presently in Baku. Among the major subjects to be discussed by him during the visit are border trade and the prospect of export of Iranian natural gas to Europe via Soviet Union.

It is expected that in the coming months the two countries continue their contacts in order to determine the manner of their cooperation in (?19) projects including agricultural, fisheries, oil and gas and light and heavy industry. In this way, one can predict that the volume of commercial exchanges between Iran and the Soviet Union this year will raise to an increase of 100 percent over that of the preceding year to reach $600 million.

Oil Minister Confident of Export Security

LD0810045690 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] Arak, Oct. 7, IRNA—The oil minister said today that the Islamic Republic thanks to its 1,500 km-plus coastline on the Persian Gulf enjoyed security of oil exports in case war breaks out in the region. "The industrialized world is heavily dependent on the oil of the region and its dependence would last at least for another century," Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said at the inauguration ceremony of the city-gas project in Mahallat town, Central Province.

He said demand for Iranian crude from industrialized countries is on the increase, and cited the example of Japan which recently raised its oil purchase from the Islamic Republic from 250,000 to 750,000 bpd [barrels per day]. The quality and situation of Iran's crude oil is "excellent", he added.

Turning to natural gas, Aqazadeh said "Iran with 18 trillion cubic meters has the world's second largest gas reserves after the Soviet Union." On petrochemical complexes under construction throughout the country, he said the 1st and 2nd phases of Arak's petrochemical plant was to start operation next year.

Joint Committee To Review Iraq POW Swap

LD1410173190 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 4, IRNA—Iran, Iraq and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have agreed to set up a joint commission to review resumption of the POW swap, the Iraqi deputy foreign minister said here today. Wisam al-Zahawi speaking to the reporters at the end of his 4-day visit to the Islamic Republic, said understanding has been reached in some areas, and the exchange of the rest of the POWs would resume once the two countries work out an agreement.

He also disclosed that the Iranian and Iraqi Embassies would reopen shortly in the respective capitals. Zahawi said he had discussed the issue including normalization of bilateral ties with his Iranian counterpart Manuchehr Mottaki.

The Iraqi official was seemingly pleased over his talks last Thursday [11 October] with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayti, and hoped that such contacts would continue between the two countries. Zahawi who left for Baghdad today, was seen off by his Iranian counterpart at Mehrabad International Airport.

*Markings, Repairs of Border With Iraq Begin

90AS0050A Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 5 Sep 90 p 8

[Text] **Tehran, IRNA, 3 August—Legal and mapping teams began preliminary operations to repair the Iran-Iraq border signs and install new border posts at locations determined by the 1975 Algiers treaty.**

The deputy for information of the central command headquarters of the forces announced: The supervisory delegation for the withdrawal and installation of border markings began their preliminary activities on Wednesday, 22 August, to determine the place and

installation of the new border posts, the locations for which were determined by the 1975 treaty.

He announced: This delegation, which is headed by the deputy director of the combat engineering station of Khatam al-Anbia', is comprised of Guard Corps and military personnel as well as legal personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the mapping experts of the armed forces geographical agency.

He said: The installation of the border posts will begin in a coordinated fashion with Iraq following such phases as full withdrawal and sweeping the mine fields, once their precise locations have been determined.

He added: At the present time, the dispatched delegation is engaged in discussing the withdrawal and sweeping of the mine fields, which is being carried out simultaneous with the preliminary work of procuring the posts.

Concerning the latest position of the Iraqi forces on the international borders, the information deputy of the central command headquarters of the forces said:

According to the 1975 treaty, the areas from which the Iraqis must withdraw is about 2,660 square km. According to the same treaty, 600 km of the border areas, including Memak, would remain under their control.

He added: At the present time, only about 20 square km, that is, about one percent of the areas in Shalamcheh, Sharhani, the border heights of Mehran, the border heights of Sumar, and the border heights north of Qasr-e Shirin, have remained in Iraqi hands.

He added: In these regions, for example, they are three or four km long and 100 meters wide on our soil, due to the destruction of the border posts and the border not being marked. Of course, this problem will be resolved with the sweeping of the fields and the presence of the UN forces.

In response to the question of how the borders will be protected from now on, he said: This issue has not been clarified decisively. But on the borders, protection will certainly be given by border guard stations, and five km from the border, some of the military forces of both sides will remain.

The deputy for information of the central headquarters of the forces said: The precise position of the forces on the border in regard to obstacles such as flooded areas and dirt mounds will be determined later, but it will certainly not be similar to war time or when there was neither war nor peace, with the forces of both sides creating strong defensive lines against each other.

Khamene'i Pardons 256 Political Prisoners

LD0810030690 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, graciously agreed with a proposal to pardon 256 individuals convicted by the Islamic Revolution tribunals and civil courts of seven cities.

The individuals' pardons are granted in line with implementation of Clause 11 from the 110th Article of the Constitution; after a request was made by the head of judicial power on the auspicious birthday of His Holiness Mohammad, prophet of mercy, the chosen one, may God's peace and salutations be upon him and his scion; and to mark the auspicious brithday of Ja'far Sadeq, the sixth imam, peace be upon him.

German Paper Reports Political Prisoners Executed

AU0710200690 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE in German 5 Oct 90 p 7

["wgl." report: "Political Prisoners Again Executed in Iran"]

[Text] Frankfurt—Five of altogether 23 political prisoners in Iran whose death sentences the International Society for Human Rights (IGFM) in Frankfurt heard about in June this year are dead. As the society heard from Iran, prisoners Bahman Aghai, Manutschehr Azar, Heschmatollah Maghsudi, two known lawyers, and Ghaherman Malakzade [names as published] were executed in the meantime. Reportedly, Malake Mahamadi [name as published] is also dead. Mrs. Mahamadi was a well-known journalist in Iran and Bahman Aghai worked as a legal expert in the Iranian Foreign Ministry. The other 18 people sentenced to death—11 men and seven women—are still waiting for their execution. According to information acquired by the IGFM, prisoner Masud Babai [name as published] will be executed in the next few days. The altogether 15 men sentenced to death are accused of "espionage for the CIA." All 23 prisoners have been imprisoned without trials for several years—some of them since 1984. In August the IGFM heard of the arrest of another 20 known personalities in Iran. They had also signed a letter to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani which protested against the continued serious human rights violations in the country.

President Meets Punishment Committee Officials

LD1710220590 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Members of the State Punishment Committee and officials of the relevant units met with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. At the meeting, a report on the performance of the State Punishment Committee was first submitted to the president. Expressing his thanks for the efforts made, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the need for the serious investigation of misdemeanors in governmental departments in Tehran and all the provinces. Giving some pointers, he asked the State Punishment Committee to perform its duties through coordination with governmental organizations and revolutionary establishments and within the confines of the law.

President Asserts Importance of Nonaligned Meeting

LD1610132990 Tehran IRNA in English 1138 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 16, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Tuesday underlined the importance of the next year's meeting of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in Accra, Ghana, and said the conference could make "important decisions". The president was addressing the visiting member of the Ghanian Leadership Council Kojo Tsikata in a meeting in which a written message from the Ghanian leader Jerry John Rawlings was handed over to him.

Tsikata arrived here Sunday morning heading a ranking delegation on a three-day visit to promote Tehran-Accra ties. Putting further emphasis on the NAM meeting next year, the president said: "We believe that the Non-Aligned Movement should assume a new shape in the future".

With regard to the new developments in the east and the west and events that are taking place in our region, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the problems of the Third World should be taken up by the non-aligned states from a new angle. He said that Iran highly respected Ghana for being a frontline revolutionary state and for mobilizing the African people.

The president underscored further cooperation between Iran and Ghana in areas of mutual interest and hoped to visit that country and other African states in the future. Tsikata said in the opinion of his country Iran was one of most serious and revolutionary members of the Non-Aligned Movement.

He expressed Ghana's desire for further expansion of bilateral cooperation with Iran and invited the president on behalf of Rawlings, to visit Ghana. Vice-President for Executive Affairs Hamid Mirzadeh, acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Iran's Ambassador to Accra Shamseddin Khareqani were also present at the meeting.

Karrubi Statement on U.S., Israeli 'Imperialism'

LD1710173390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Announcer-read report on message sent by Majles speaker Mehdi Karrubi to the Interparliamentary Union meeting in Uruguay; date of message not given]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the tragic martyrdom of dozens of Palestinian Muslims in the hands of the Zionists at al-Aqsa Mosque, Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles, sent a message to the Interparliamentary Union meeting in Uruguay.

The message, referring to the latest crime of the Zionists,

The barbaric massacre of defenseless people of Palestine last week adds yet another page to the tragic and blood-stained history of that land. Yet international organizations, by confining themselves to issuing repitious and diplomatically oriented statements regarding that crime, have proved, in practice, the abject impotence of international law and the so-called world justice seeking centers in realising the just rights of the victimized peoples.

Another part of the statement, referring to the fact that news and cultural instruments are being controlled by world centers of Zionism and Freemasonary, as well as referring to eight years of blood-soaked resistence of our Muslim nation during the imposed war, says: At this sensitive juncture in time, the need to review the one-sided international laws has been clearly made obvious. [passage omitted]

The speaker of the Majles in his message refers to the new conspiracy of the United States and world imperialism in creating confusion in public minds with regard to the Persian Gulf crisis, as well as to the ambiguous solution to the occupation of Kuwait, and also to the likely change in the geopolitically sensitive map of the region. He adds: World imperialism, headed by the United States and assisted by the regime occupying Jerusalem, has staged a scenario in which they will not only establish their illegitimate and so-called national-security interests in the Middle East region, but they will also be able to lay down a map for the Middle East in accordance with their strategy—doing so through resort to propaganda and creation of a confused atmosphere, as well as reformist moves such as replacing one dictator by another. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Praises MiG-29, Air Force

LD0710122190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Oct 90

[Text] The advanced MiG-29 fighter-tracker aircraft, recently adopted by the Iranian Air Force, have become operational.

According to a Central News Unit report, during a ceremony held in the presence of the minister of defense and support for the armed forces, the chief of the Joint Staff of the armed forces, a number of officials and advisors of the General Command Headquarters, high-ranking armed forces commanders, and heads of politico- ideological departments, the Air Force commander described serial tracking operations. He said: With the delivery of the MiG-29's, one of the most complete fighter aircraft in the world, the Air Force and its committed personnel have now been given a graver responsibility.

According to this report, various parts of MiG-29 aircraft, ground support equipment, and ground training classes for the electronic repairs experts for this type of aircraft, using the latest educational aid equipment, were inspected and the necessary explanations given by the officials.

During the ceremony, which was held at an Air Force base, projects of the reconstruction batallions, and heavy

repair work on F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers were inspected by the defense minister and his entourage.

At the end of the ceremony, referring to the fact that the Air Force has so far played the biggest role in the reconstruction of armed forces equipment, Mr. Torkan, the minister of defense and support for the armed forces, said: The most technologically advanced defense equipment, such as the F-14's, have been maintained, prepard, and used in the war by Air Force personnel for 12 years. The Air Force still possesses the strongest air fighting fleet in the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East.

Judiciary Proposes International Islamic Court

LD1710214390 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi Wednesday proposed the formation of an impartial islamic court to deal with differences between Muslim governments and to rid them of taking their case to international court of justice. "Such a court must be free to condemn and issue verdict against any government committing a crime," he suggested in his meeting with the vice-speaker of Yemen's parliament Sa'id al-Hakimi.

Commenting on the judicial system in Islam, Yazdi said "Islam has a specific system originating from the divine book (Holy Quran) and is therefore needless of any other sources." He also pointed out that Islamic rulings are able to administer an Islamic society better than any other superflous codes.

Al-Hakimi who arrived here last Monday, expressed hope that such meetings would prepare the ground for expansion of mutual ties between the Islamic Republic and Yemen. He also invited Ayatollah Yazdi to pay an official visit to Sanaa.

Habibi Cables Kohl on German Unification

LD1010175190 Tehran IRNA in English 1052 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—first Vice-President Hasan Habibi cabled a message to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Wednesday congratulating him on the unification of the two Germanys.

Habibi in his message wished success and prosperity for the German Government and nation and expressed hope that bilateral relations and traditional bonds between the two countries will expand further.

RESALAT Reports on 18 Sep Majles Session

PM1710111490 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 22 Sep 90 p 5

[Text] Report from Tuesday's open session of the Majles. Legal and parliamentary section:

The Majles held an open session last Tuesday morning chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemiyan. During this session the deputies from the Jewish minority, Kahnuj, Khalkhal, Kazerun and Tehran gave pre-agenda speeches. Then the Majles went into session.

Below are the pre-agenda speeches and the bills passed by the Majles:

Manuchehr Nikruz, deputy for the Jews: The Jews of Iran will take steps alongside their Muslim compatriots to rebuild and reconstruct the country.

The first pre-agenda speaker at Tuesday's open session of the Majles was Mr. Nikruz the deputy representing the Jewish minority. He sent his greetings to the shining spirit of the departed imam—may God expedite his passage to paradise—as well as the respected leader and the innocent spirit of the martyrs. He welcomed the POW's on their return home and conveyed his greetings to his Jewish compatriots on the occasion of the Jewish new year. In this connection he said: I convey my greetings on the eve of this great day to all the dear Iranians of the same faith as well as all dignified Jews throughout the world. We ask God that during this time of prayers and fasting, He take them into His care. The Jewish community, by appearing at synagogues, pray to God for peace, happiness and ever-increasing prosperity for the human race. There is the hope that mankind will take steps along the path painted by the prophets and the great wise men to achieve happiness in this world and fogiveness in the other.

The speaker then spoke of the deep ties between the Jewish community and Iranian history and said: It is obvious that the top of the list of priorities for Iranian Jews is for the Jewish community to remain in Iran to continue its social life among this kind and great people of Iran since they have dug deep roots in a lasting way in Iran's history. Iranian Jews, alongside their Muslim brothers, did not fall short of sacrificing on the warfronts of the imposed war in defense of the country. Today they witness the return of the POW's. They are certain that just as in the days of the war, they will take unified steps with their compatriots toward rebuilding the country and hope to have the honor of being of some service in working toward rebuilding.

In another section of his speech, the speaker said: We convey our greetings on the occasion of the 1990-1991 academic year. All Jews, in their new year prayers will ask God for health for the great leader, success for the government of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his righteous cabinet. In conclusion we wish a speedy recovery for the respected speaker of the Majles Haj Aqa Karrubi.

Mo'tamedi-niya, deputy from Kahnuj: The heroic people of Iran will fight against the aggressive powers on their leader's orders, up to the point of martyrdom.

Mr. Mo'tamedi-niya the people's deputy from Kahnuj was the second pre-agenda speaker. He conveyed his condolences on the occasion of the death of the

Prophet—greetings to him and his family, the martyrdom of Imam Hasan Mojtaba—peace be unto him and his family and the martyrdom of Imam 'Ali bin-Musa al-Reza—peace be unto him and his family.

He then expressed his sincere thanks to the president for visiting Kahnuj to see to the people's problems. He expressed the hope that his blessed arrival would be followed by goodness and prosperity for the town, which would eradicate poverty.

In another section of his speech, the speaker talked about the problems facing his constituency and said: The town of Kahnuj has an area of 32,000 sq km where some 200,000 people live. They are a people who like Islam, the revolution, and the respected leader. They obey the commands of their leader. During the imposed war, with their widespread participation and their loss of hundreds of martyrs, missing in action, disabled, and POW's—a prime example being the brave POW Mohammad Shahsavari—they have proven their dedication to the revolution, the imam, and the leadership of the revolution. The famous, fertile lands of Kahnuj, Rudbar and Dasht Jazmuriyan, with their good climate, is capable of being cultivated all year round. Despite this, because of a lack of proper programming by the Agricultural Bank and because of a lack of support for farmers, there has not been that much improvement. During the planting season the farmers have a severe shortage of tractors and during the harvest time they have a severe shortage of combine harvesters. This was so bad that some of the farmers were not able to harvest their wheat crop until July this year, keeping in mind that the normal harvest time is in April. The agricultural machinery and spare parts are very rare and very expensive and providing these for the farmers is hard and sometimes impossible. The lack of proper roads in the villages and between the farms means that there a real problems in the transportation of agricultural goods and fuel for the pumps. The lack of a registry office in the provincial capital, the fact that agricultural land is not registered because they are mostly tenant farmers, the natural resources causing problems and on the other hand the bureaucratic system in the administrative offices have caused problems in the way of issuing permits for the digging and utilization of wells.

With regard to the need for educational space, he said: The education office faces a shortage of educational space in spite of a growing number of students. More than 200 schools are conducted under the trees and inside huts made of reeds. The teachers in the villages have a shortage of housing, vehicles for transportation and even foodstufs. In many areas high schools do not exist. A poor villager has no choice for his child to continue his education. In terms of health and hygiene, the people in the region face severe shortcomings. There is one hospital built in this populous city and so far there are no doctors or nurses. People travel to other cities and provincial capitals to get medical treatment—and then only if they have money. In Kahnuj there are more than 1,000 people who have malaria. The office that is in charge of combating malaria needs 50 motorcycles for transport on roads where cars cannot travel. Unfortunately despite several exchanges of correspondence, this need has so far not been met. Also, 70 percent of the people do not have clean drinking water and more than 60 percent do not have electricity.

Mr. Mo'tamedi-niya commented on the need to combat trouble-makers and pedlars of death [drug pushers] asking that the security forces be strengthened and given logistical and other equipment.

He continued his speech by saying: I ask the respected officials to respect local forces and to use them in key posts so that they will not be discouraged, so that they will grow. This way we will not have a shortage of manpower in the future. I ask the ministers of agriculture, education, health and health education, Reconstruction Crusade, and roads and transportation, even though they have little time, to visit at least once this deprived city to give instructions for research in the various fields of culture, economics and so forth to encourage local talent to flourish and in order to eliminate poverty. I would like to ask the minister of mines and metals to take urgent steps to start excavation work on the mine.

In another section of his speech the deputy from Kahnuj commented on the presence of the criminal United States in the Persian Gulf and added: Even though Saddam's occupation of Kuwait is an inhuman and improper act, the military presence of the Great Satan in the region is even uglier and has a more damaging affect because the United States is itself an aggressor and the free Muslims will not remain quiet. Today, because of the incompetence of the Arab shaykhs ruling Hejaz, the holy land where the Koran was created, is under the boots of the heretic American soldiers. The spirits of the Prophet, greetings unto him and his family, and the holy imams, peace be unto them and their families, have been disturbed and upset. The great leader of the revolution and the brave leader of the Islamic world, Ayatollah Khamane'i said in his remarks that fighting and struggling against aggression and the expansionist plans and policies of the United States in its efforts to get a foothold in the Persian Gulf, is considered to be holy war for God and anyone who is killed in this process is a martyr. O leader! Your steadfast and imam-like speech blew fresh air into our spirits and created new life in our souls. Our ever aware, heroic people of Iran have been motivated by your steadfast position and in accordance with your command will fight against the aggressive powers up until the point of martyrdom. They will defend the holy boundaries of Islam and the Koran. The Muslims of the world, if they want their Islamic and human dignity, must back such an aware and wise leader in struggling against bullying and cruelty with unity and with steadfastness. O Muslims! Rise and rush to help Islam.

Mottahar Kazemi, people's deputy from Khalkhal: Because of the coming of the cold season there is danger threatening the earthquake regions.

The third pre-agenda speaker at Tuesday's Majles session was Mr. Kazemi from the constituency of Khalkhal. He conveyed his condolences to the Islamic ummah and the respected leader on the occasion of Arba'in and 28 Safar [religious mourning days] and commented on the Persian Gulf saying: The evil triangle of the United States, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia has taken aggression in the Persian Gulf to its peak. Aggression is in America's fiber and aggressors have to be uprooted. Until the root of aggression is dried up, the problem will not be solved. God showed to the world that our people were right and showed the enemy's evil face to the world. We support with every inch of our flesh and bones the imam-like statement of the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Khamane'i. Today the faces of those who supported American Islam and those who followed the thesis of getting rid of the clergy and those who used all sorts of tricks to damage the dedicated clergy, have been identified and the face of the pure Islam of the Prophet and justice has also been realized in the world.

The speaker talked about the recent earthquake and the destruction in the villages of the people of Khalkhal and said: Another issue is that of the earthquake. The situation in 84 poor villages in the two poor sections of Khalkhal called imamrud and Khursho-rostam as well as other areas is truly pitiful—especially in the Khalkhal region where cold weather will take hold within the next few days. With regard to financial help I must say that the 200,000 rials and 100,000 rials that were given to some areas have not been given to these areas. I announce that clearly there is danger threatening the poor people. While we lost less lives in the quake, we still had a lot of financial and property damage.

Without a doubt we will have a lot of fatalities this winter because people are living in those half-destroyed houses which are insecure and they have no other place. There are not even enough tents for them. Without a doubt if there is nothing done, there is danger threatening them. I ask the minister of interior to visit this poor area and I ask the president to include the earthquake-stricken and poor people of Khalkhal in his list of deprived areas, to visit them as soon as possible.

The speaker talked about the other problems caused by the quake in the region and drew the officials' attention to this issue. He concluded by thanking those officials who had visited the area.

Baqeri-nejadiyan Fard, people's deputy from Kazerun: Mobiliazing tens and hundreds of millions of people to oust heretics and hypocrites from the region is of utmost urgency.

Mr. Baqeri-nejadiyan Fard the people's deputy from Kazerun was the fourth pre-agenda speaker who started his speech by saying:

Following the non-stop efforts of all crusaders in the path of love, fidelity and steadfastness in the fields of blood and fire, to the height of sacrifice and honor, in their struggle against capitalist Zionism and Communism, the great God showed the curtains of his power and lit the furnace of light in the Middle East and took the guiding light of Mohammad—greetings unto him and his family—and is transporting those thirsty for the truth toward the ship of salvation that belongs to the family of Mohammad—greetings unto him and his family.

He added: Now the oil-devourers and free-loaders of the world, these looters and thieves of the modern age, following repeated killings of the guests of God during the holy month, have gathered at a feast given by the most corrupt, hated and feared regime in the world and are busy cavorting in a place where God's message came to earth.

O God! Bring the most dreaded of tortures to those who inherit from the corrupt so that the earth is cleansed from the corrupt and cruel rulers. O God! Where are the children of the scenes of honor of Husayn and Karbala' and where are they hiding? Why is it that the lion-like roar of the brave young men of Islam cannot be heard? God forbid that the heretics and the hypocrites should flee from the place of their slaughter and God forbid tht the fish in the sea will remain hungry and wait and wish for these tasty morsels.

Mr. Nejadiyan Fard stressed: the mobilization of tens and hundreds of millions of people to oust the heretics and hypocrites from the region is of utmost urgency. In the defense of Islam the boundaries between race and language have no meaning and there is no difference between men and women, old and young, rich or poor. If the world of Islam does not revolt today, tomorrow it is too late and centuries of the Islamic ummah's dignity will burn in the fires of those citizens of hell who live on earth. [koranic verse.]

He continued by saying that the day to seek revenge from those who had killed all prophets and the children of God is close. He said: The day to seek revenge on Zionists who worship the cow and the children of Bani Ommayeh—may they all be damned—is here. This golden and unique opportunity must be utilized to finish the job once and for all. Free men and free women of the Islamic world must use all the top military, guerrillas and the potential martyrdom-seeking forces of the two great people of Iraq and Iran to destroy the Israeli regime.

The deputy for the people of Kazerun attacked the UN Security Council demanding the formation of a United Nations for the Islamic nations and oppressed. He reaffirmed:

In the not too distant future we will form a United Nations for Islamic nations and for the oppressed on top of the ruins of the spider-like systems, in the heart of the Middle East and we will run the world of the innocent within the framework of the pure Islam of Mohammad—greetings unto him and his family.

In another section of his speech he commented on elections for the Council of Experts and said: At this sensitive time the participation of all the people in these

elections will be decisive. These elections could play a vital role for Iran and the Islamic world. The aware and awake people, with holy intentions, will recognize and elect those clergymen and those wise men who are armed with thought, action, foresight and method of pure Islam, who have obeyed and learned from the imam at the highest level. They will isolate those who pretend. With the formation of the Experts, the pure Islam of Husayn and Khomeyni, the leadership of the Islamic world and the oppressed will be guided through any storm that would be strong enough to destroy the regime and the movement.

With regard to the POW's Mr. Nejadiyan Fard said: The POW's brought victory for our ummah with their patience and holy spirit. Together with the leader of their camp, Mr. Abutorabi, they will play a great role in promoting culture in our society.

He concluded by informing the judicial power and the ministry of health and health education about the problems of his constituency and asked that these be dealt with quickly.

Mrs Gohar ol-Shari'eh Dast-gheyb, deputy from Tehran: Mrs Gohar ol-Shari'eh Dast-gheyb from the constituency of Tehran was the fifth and last pre-agenda speaker on Tuesday. She sent her greetings to the innocent and pure spirit of the martyrs and the shining spirit of the departed imam—may God expedite his passage to paradise—and prayed for health and a long dignified life for the great leader of the revolution. She conveyed her condolences on the occasion of the death of Islam's Prophet, to the hidden imam—may God expedite his return—and to all Muslims. She continued her speech by commenting on the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and said: Today unfortunately the world heretics, led by the Great Satan the world-engulfing United States, have cast a hungry eye on the land where God's message was delivered. They have finally achieved the goal they have sought for a long time which was to occupy the place considered most holy by the Muslims. With the help of the likes of Bulab and Bujahl [Religious and historic figures] they have come to fight Islam. Those rulers who have no religion, in order to keep their own shakey foundatons, have gone to the enemies of the Koran for help. They have forgotten that for many years they claimed to be Muslims, protectors of the house of God and the custodians of the holy mosques. But in secret they supported Zionism and America. For years our departed imam said the Muslims should know that the Wahibis today have become the focus for plots and espionage. They promote an Islam of riches, stupid undignified people who pretend to be holy, Islam of money, gold, tricks, compromise, and slavery—in short American Islam. Today we see that the predictions of the imam that these people will lay their heads at the doorway of their master the United States to shout their indignity to the whole world, has come true.

Our departed imam said that Muslims must come out of the quagmire of silence into which the United States and the Soviet Union have sown the seeds of death and slavery. He said that they should go toward the sea from which the Holy Zamzam fountain has come, that they should wash with their own tears the curtain at the Ka'Ba', the house of God, made filthy at the hands of Americans and children of Americans. The speaker added: Thanks be to god that after the great imam, the world is once again witness to the strong positions taken by the respected leader Ayatollah Khamene'i. In his speech that made one proud, he said that struggling against the aggressors, the expansionist plans and policies of the United States aimed at gaining a foothold in the Persian Gulf, would be considered to be holy war and that anyone killed in the process would be a martyr. As he has said many times the government and the great people of iran will cut off the hands of the aggressors with all their might. this is not just a claim. Our brave and martyr-rearing people have proved that they will punish the aggressor and they will keep their human dignity. In accordance with [Koranic verse] they will not suffer indignity for one moment.

The speaker continued by commenting on the loutish and drunken behavior of American soldiers at the site of the muslims' Ka'Ba' and added: O muslims of the world, beware! Rise, because this time the two holy mosques have been trampled on by heretics and the enemies of God's religion. The dignity of Muslims is in danger. Which religious human can tolerate this indignity to see American men and women boldly drinking and cavorting beside the Ka'Ba' of the Muslims and beside the mosque of the Prophet of God? Which free Muslim can hear and bear the fact that the rulers of Al-Sa'ud have given orders that muslim women be used by wrong-doing american and nato soldiers and that liquor should be allowed? They are providing from far and near, especially from islamic countries, ways and means for them to be entertained. She concluded by addressing Iranian women: You lion-like women of Iran, of whom history is proud, you are role-models for the women of the current century. Carry out your role and like before, obey the velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] and shout your anger and hatred toward the rulers of dissent. prove to the world that you will not allow the aggressors and colonialists to use Muslim women.

Mrs. Dast-Gheyb warned young people not to fall into the trap of immorality and commented on education: The warning that I have on education is to keep dedicated forces. Getting rid of the heads of teachers' training centers and the dedicated and experienced forces from the education system is a warning. Once again I ask the president to look into this matter personally. From this microphone I bring to him the voice of thousands of dedicated teachers. The issue of expensive tuition fees and the fact that some students are not enrolled because they do not have the funds—let me put it in another way that the dignity of many parents is crushed when they go to enroll their children for school and many of them have to beg for consideration which is very improper.

The speaker warned those who wish to sow dissent with regard to the council of experts saying: The Velayat-e Faqih, whatever he says and anything he can advise, the people will listen and accept with all their hearts. But it is not acceptable for someone who claims to be close to the faqih to come and cause dissent in this manner. In fact [Koranic verse] is the best method for us to employ.

The imam in a message on the occasion of the foundation of Experts said: "History and the future will judge you. The great prophets of God will witness your votes and your actions. The slightest mistake and the slightest hint of wanting to force your opinion and God forbid obeying human whims which could divert this holy act, will cause the biggest catastrophe in history."

She added: There is nothing better and greater than to have the people throughout the country do things that they have to do in accordance with Islam and the Constitution. In chosing a president and deputies for the Majles, to choose educated people who are dedicated and progressive, aware of world issues, independent of the powerful nations who want to control, who are religious, pious, dedicated to Islam and the Islamic Republic, who ask others for their opinions. They should note that the president and Majles deputies must be from a class of people who have felt the innocence and the poverty of the poor in the society, to think of their welfare. They should not be from among the capitalists, landowners, comfortable people who live in towns, who are comfortable and drowning in pleasures of the flesh, who know nothing of the bitterness of the poverty of the hungry. If the president and Majles deputies are worthy and if they are dedicated to Islam and sympathetic toward the country and the people, many of the problems would never come about. Even if there are problems, they will be solved. In the same sense, in the election for the Experts which will choose a leader or a council of leadership, there have to be special conditions. If the Experts who are chosen by the people, are very exact, consult the sources of emulation, the great ullema throughout the country and other religious scientists dedicated to the Experts, many of the problems will be solved through choosing the best and the most dedicated people for the leadership or the council of leadership, or at least they would be solved in an appropriate manner.

The speaker concluded by welcoming the POW cleric Hojjat ol-Eslam Abutorabi to the Islamic homeland.

The bills passed by the Majles:

The first item on the agenda of the Majles was the bill to take some of the government's earnings and spend them on specific projects which the deputies passed on an experimental basis for five years.

The second item on the agenda was for the provision of facilities to buy, build, or complete student dormitories (sent back from the Council of Guardians.) The following correction was passed.

Correction for Item 2: "Banking facilities for the building of these dormitories will be at the minimum rate approved by the financial and credit council and has to be paid back within 25 years." The third item on the agenda was the legal plan to implement Article 17 of the Constitution in the area of supervision (sent back by the Council of Guardians.) The following correction was passed.

Item 5—Each year the credit needed by the "supervision council" will be placed within the general national budget as a grant under a separate heading in the chapter on information and mass communications.

Footnote: The maximum amount of 30 million rials in credit needed by the supervision council will be provided by the end of the current year from the government's budget list 50,3001.

The last item on the agenda was the first round of discussions to reject the legal plan on the manner in which [the commission for Article 176 of the Constitution could be formed. Further discussions on this were postponed until the next Majles session.

Also in the open session of the Majles the plan to correct item 171 of the internal regulations of the Majles was presented as a matter of urgency which was not approved. It was not approved as a matter of priority either.

During the open session of the Majles on Tuesday it was announced that the bill to correct item 17 added to footnote 5 of the law on receiving sums for exit visas had been accepted.

Memorandum of Understanding Signed With CSFR

LD1010204490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] On the basis of the memorandum of understanding signed today at the end of the visit to Tehran of the Czechoslovak Federal Republic's deputy trade minister, between him and the [Iranian] Ministry of Industry's economic and trade deputy ministers, the two countries agreed that the third meeting of the Iran-Czechoslovakia joint [economic] commission be held in Prague toward the end of Azar [beginning 22 Nov] of the current year.

Yugoslav Minister Discusses Trade Cooperation

On Visit for Trade Fair

LD0910133790 Tehran IRNA in English 1026 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Iran and Yugoslavia Tuesday announced readiness to further expand economic and trade cooperation. The decision was made in a meeting between the visiting Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Franc Horvat and Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Mohsen Nurbakhsh, this morning.

Horvat arrived here Saturday night to visit the 16th Tehran International Trade Fair, opened October 1, and to make arrangements for the 8th joint ministerial session, to be held here next month. Horvat expressed hope that the volume of trade between the two countries will be increased in future.

Nurbakhsh announced Iran's readiness in signing a long-term agreement with Yugoslavia for the sale of Iranian oil at the going international prices, export of natural gas via the Soviet Union and also non-oil goods.

Confers With Habibi

LD0910201290 Tehran IRNA in English 1826 GMT 9 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 9, IRNA—Visiting Yugoslav Secretary for Foreign Economic Relations Franc Horvat told First Vice President Hasan Habibi on Tuesday that recent developments in the Persian Gulf would lead to the expansion of international cooperation. Horvat said both Iran and Yugoslavia were trying to find a peaceful solution in the context of the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM] to the Persian Gulf crisis.

The upgrading of relations between the Islamic Republic and Yugoslavia could strengthen their cooperation in the south-south conference, he added. The Yugoslav official also announced his country's desire to enhance joint cooperation with Iran in the fields of oil, tourism, power generation and distribution and auto industries, saying Tehran would soon become one of Yugoslavia's main partners in NAM.

Habibi, commenting on the Persian Gulf crisis, said Iraq by invading Kuwait has not only trampled upon human rights but also provoked foreign military build-up in the Persian Gulf, something which is certainly detrimental to world peace and security. The first vice president made it clear that "U.N. Security Council resolutions should be precisely implemented and no change in internationally-recognized border will be acceptable."

Meets Oil, Energy Ministers

LD1010110490 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 10 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA—Tehran-Belgrade economic cooperation were discussed in a meeting of the visiting Yugoslav Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Franc Horvat and Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i here Tuesday afternoon.

Horvat who arrived here last Saturday to visit the 16th Tehran international trade fair voiced his country's interest in expansion of cooperation with Iran in the field of oil. He called for import of Iranian natural gas and increase in volume of its oil purchase.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i welcomed establishment of long-term Tehran-Belgrade economic and oil ties and said that Iran was ready to sell oil to Yugoslavia within the present conditions of the oil market. Meanwhile, in a meeting with Energy Minister Bijan Namdar-Zanganeh, Horvat informed him of interest of the Yugoslav companies to assist Iran in water, power and energy transfer projects. Namdar-Zanganeh raised existence of technical problems in some joint projects and called for their removal.

Ghanaian Official Arrives in Tehran 14 Oct

NC1410074190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Kojo Tsikata, member of the leadership council in charge of foreign trade and national security of Ghana [title as heard] arrived in Tehran this morning at the head of a high-level delegation. He was welcomed by Mr. Mirzadeh, vice president of executive affairs, and Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati.

Following his arrival in Tehran, Mr. Tsikata told our correspondent that he was carrying a message from the Ghanaian leadership for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. Mr. Mirzadeh, vice president of executive affairs said: The country of Ghana is the next host of the upcoming Nonaligned Movment foreign ministers' conference. Iran and Ghana intend to maintain a joint stance at this session.

Joint Communique Issued on UN Envoy's Visit

LD0810212290 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 8 Oct 90

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative praised Iran for its effective action for providing transit facilities for thousands of refugees from Kuwait. In a joint communique issued at the end of Sadruddin Agha Khan's—the UN secretary general's representative—visit to Tehran, it was agreed that the United nations and other international organizations will increase their efforts and aid in order to meet the urgent requirements of this humanitarian move.

Culture Minister Comments on Havana Conference

NC0610100190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Oct 90

[Text] Mr. Khatami, minister for culture and Islamic guidance, who led Iran's delegation to the third nonaligned information ministers conference in Havana, Cuba, returned to Tehran last night. In an interview with our correspondent at the airport, the minister for culture and Islamic guidance said: At the conference, we discussed the Islamic Republic of Iran's independent stance toward the regional and international situation, as well as various information and communications issues.

With regard to the results of the information ministers conference, he said: In light of the Islamic Republic of Iran's views, the conference condemned the use of the mass media, especially books and films, to spread propaganda against the values and sanctities of nonaligned countries, the use of satellites to influence the thought

and culture of these countries, and the crimes of the Zionist regime in the occupied territories.

Mr. Khatami stressed: During this visit, a cultural agreement was signed between Iran and Cuba and it was decided that a team of experts will formulate a practical program for cultural exchanges so that a joint accord can be finalized between the two countries.

Paper Sees 'Golden Opportunity' for United States

NC0810213790 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Weekly Political Analysis—The Aim of the Powers of World Arrogance in Prolonging the Crisis"]

[Text] The Al-Sauds and Arab reactionaries have joined with the powers of world arrogance and are hopeful that the U.S. and NATO forces will take responsibility for their protection and will fight against the Baghdad regime on their behalf. However, Washington and the NATO forces have their own axes to grind and are capitalizing on the golden opportunity to maintain a presence in the region and to legitimize their intervention and interference in the regional issues. They will, however, continue to postpone any battle with Baghdad on various pretexts.

The UN Security Council is regularly issuing new resolutions against Iraq, but some of the Security Council members consider it in their interest if they show Iraq the "green light." They are seeking their own advantage in prolonging the crisis and do not consider it beneficial to end the crisis.

The United States and the NATO forces are preparing for a long-term stay in the region and are hopeful that conditions will be created for the crisis to continue as this would justify their permanent presence in the region. This is something that regional Muslim nations would never tolerate. It appears that in order to affirm this, the honorable Muslims should enter the foray and should firmly drive home to the Satanic powers the need for the foreigners to leave the region.

This is a measure that perhaps the regional nations may prefer to implement in the manner of the honorable Lebanese Muslims and thus expedite the flight of the foreign forces from the region.

Paper Warns Against U.S. Gulf Military Presence

LD1710115890 Tehran IRNA in English 1011 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—A morning daily Wednesday advised the American statesmen not to compare situation in the Middle East to that of the post-cold war Europe. 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' in an editorial titled "what America must know," stressed that the present status quo in the region should rather be compared to that in Lebanon.

"In spite of their hegemonic tendencies if the (NATO forces) managed to remain in the Islamic Lebanon, they can manage to perpetuate their domination in any corner of the Islamic land in the region," noted the daily. Lebanon, it added, while serves as a "dreadful nightmare" for the NATO forces, is a vivid example of what would befall on intruder forces anywhere in the Muslim world.

The daily rejected as baseless the recent remarks of U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to the effect that American forces will remain in the Middle East till the crisis is over as they did in Europe for 40 years after the World War II. "It seems that Washington authorities believe that public opinion in the region is currently preoccupied with the Zionist crimes giving them freedom to plan their long-term stay in the region," said the article.

But, it stressed, Washington should know that regional states will blame supporters of Israel, especially the U.S., for all the crimes it committed. Therefore, the daily noted, the "bloody Monday" incident of October 8 (in which a number of Palestinians were massacred at al-Aqsa mosque by the Zionist police) could backfire at the U.S. and become a prelude for an effective anti-U.S. struggle in the region.

*Commentary Discusses U.S. Propaganda, Plans

90AS0050B Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 3 Oct 90 p 1

[Text] Why has Iran, wounded as a result of the long economic embargo by the West and suffering significant shortages in the area of general food supplies, become a subject for Western propaganda? And what is the meaning of so much propaganda in connection with the smuggling of some goods through the vast Iran-Iraq border, which was inevitable even during the war?

The fact is that Radio Monte Carlo, in its French language program, in a commentary on the arrest of 30 smugglers by Iranian officials, considers Iran as a good student, from the viewpoint of the EEC. We must see where the teacher is sitting in ambush to once again take advantage of the hatred left over from the war it created between Iran and Iraq.

Should the government of Iran address the issue of smugglers in the west, southeast, north, and northwest, some of whom engage in disrupting the social and economic affairs of the country, on the direction of the West? And if the answer is negative, what is the interpretation of the sensitivity displayed by the government of Iran in regard to this issue, especially since some of the governments affiliated with the United States openly sell medicine and some public food to Iraq?

Essentially, even though in accordance with the ratifications of the Security Council such action has been exempted, not to mention the fact that Iran also lacks the capability in this particular area, we must see why such significant propaganda is taking place with regard to

Iran, even with regard to the activities of smugglers. The roots of the issue must be seen in the loss of an effective lever in the relations of the West with Iran. After the acceptance of the 1975 treaty by Iraq, contrary to the reactions of the defenders of eliminating tension in the region, the displeasure of the West and the dependent sheikhs became apparent at various levels, because if the United States were able to continue to maintain the tensions resulting from the eight years of war between Iran and Iraq by imposing various pressures, escalating the differences would not be so difficult.

One can already hear the destructive voices of the main supporters of the aggressor on the Iranian soil in their analyses. Even though its nature and motives became clear to everyone after the aggression of Iraq on Kuwait, the Voice of America once again speaks of not being certain who was the aggressor in the imposed war:

"There are differences of opinion about who started this war" (Voice of America, 9:30 PM, 22 September 1990, quoted by a professor of the American University at [Heathtown]).

The broadcast of these statements takes place even after Iraq, by accepting Iran's conditions, has implicitly expressed regret for its action, which is very significant. Western propaganda pressure to create a problem out of the insignificant actions of the smugglers must never provoke Iran to take hasty steps that will provide the desirable conditions for the United States.

Western propaganda will easily be able to create an excuse to create parallel pressure on Iran, but remaining out of reach of Western propaganda hostility does not mean giving up the power of political maneuvering, which the conditions of the region have provided for Iran. At this juncture, the Western policy is to reduce the political actions of Iran in order for Tehran to be incapable of neutralizing the Western levers of regional pressure.

U.S. Said Responsible for Israeli Actions

NC1110203690 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Oct 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Muslim Palestinian people demonstrated en masse in various parts of the occupied territories yesterday to protest the hideous massacre which Israel perpetrated last Monday. They defied the curfew the Tel Aviv regime had imposed to guard against any disturbances. These demonstrations spread to areas outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Thousands of Palestinians in Nazareth and other Galilee towns clashed with the Zionist occupation police forces.

Concurrently a state of general mourning continues in the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

It is noteworthy that the overwhelming majority of countries have condemned the Zionist regime for the hideous crime it committed on Monday which resulted in the martyrdom of more than 20 Palestinians and injured no fewer than 300 others in the al-Aqsa Mosque. These countries urged the implementation of international measures against this regime. Indeed, the latest massacre is almost unprecendented since the intifadah erupted in the occupied territories three years ago. The number of martyrs and wounded demonstrates the extent of the brutality with which the Zionist establishment faces the unarmed Palestinian people with its military strike forces.

The condemnations from the majority of countries and international political and religious forums focused on the fact that this terrible massacre is a criminal and racist act. In this connection, the PLO called on the UN Security Council to adopt prompt, practical measures to prevent Israel from continuing its brutal crimes.

Apparently, the Security Council's failure to adopt a final resolution on this issue was caused by the opposition of the United States to any resolution that condemns Israel's inhuman acts and behavior and its refusal to send an fact-finding committee to the occupied territories.

In the view of numerous international forums and personalities, the Security Council's failure to adopt a firm response to the Israeli crimes is one of the major human tragedies of the day. Palestinian circles have also indicated that any Security Council resolution that does not include practical measures and ways to guarantee international support for the Palestinian people will be useless and ineffective. Rhetorical condemnations will not able to stand up to criminal Israeli practices and have no practical force or use.

Naturally, the eternally pro-Zionist U.S. stands are coming under strong denunciation by the Palestinian people and their leaders. There is a general conviction that the United States, through its total and organized support for Israel, should be held responsible for the crimes that the latter perpetrates against the Palestinians on their occupied land.

Additionally and in light of the U.S. obstruction of the UN Security Council's good offices, the United States must be held responsible for the failure of any step taken by the Council to issue a resolution supporting the Palestinian people. At any rate, the current conditions in occupied Palestine have put the Security Council to the test. It must demonstrate its ability to shoulder its responsibility to maintain international security and peace and avoid double standards in dealing with various international crises and issues. In the current delicate circumstances, international public opinion expects the United Nations to respond appropriately to the injustice done to the Palestinian Muslim people and Israel's violations of human rights in the territories it occupies. It must take a stand similar to the prompt and serious stand it took over the Iraqi aggression against

Kuwait. It is illogical and unreasonable to defend human rights in one place and disregard them in another.

Commentary on West's Use of UN To Achieve Goals

NC1110155990 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Sep 90 pp 1,8

[Unattributed commentary: "The Role of the United Nations and the West's Objectives in the Persian Gulf"]

[Text] Rarely since its creation in 1945 has the UN Security Council played as significant a role as the role it is currently playing in the confrontation with Iraq in the Persian Gulf, the unification of the West's forces in a new regional conflict, and the approval of numerous resolutions.

What makes the UN's role even more significant is its efforts to legitimize the crusade by the rich forces of the North against the poor forces of the South. The main reason for accelerating this process is the fact that alarms have been sounded several times by Western experts, especially in the report by the tripartite committee headed by former German Chancellor Willy Brandt on the disintegration of the world system as a result of the confrontation between the rich and poor nations.

All this gives the United Nations new tasks. Among the major duties of this organization on the eve of the year 2000 are the acceleration of the process of steered democracy in the poor world, its increased presence in procapitalist countries to achieve some level of development! or for holding free! elections, making minor concessions to satisfy the "expectations" of the leaders of countries facing popular uprisings, and creating new world structures.

Within the context of the duties assigned to this organization by the world powers, one can now recognize what plans this organization is implementing in the crisis-ridden area of the Middle East.

What is obvious is the fact that the West is trying to create a new security system in the region. Various views on this have been put forward at the United Nations, among which Mitterrand's plan has the most outstanding and noteworthy points as far as the solution of the Persian Gulf crisis is concerned. Even though this plan did not surprise analysts, nevertheless the fact that it was propounded at this juncture is important. Mitterrand proposed that free elections be held in Kuwait after Iraq withdraws, that there be a regional arms reduction, and that an international conference on the Middle East be followed by the formation of a regional union which will extend from Iran to Morocco. Italy and Spain have already announced their support for the French plan and more European countries are expected to follow suit. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union—with its plan for a common European home aimed at finding its place in Europe—had put forward a plan for an international conference on the Middle East a long time ago.

Political observers believe that in an effort to achieve its objectives, the West is resorting to the United Nations and is endorsing Mitterrand's plan. These observers believe that the West's objectives are:

1. To legitimize the Zionist regime and ensuring its border security. The intention behind this is to limit the Zionist regime (temporarily) until a united Europe achieves economic and political stability.
2. To extinguish the flames of the crisis in the Persian Gulf.
3. To guarantee the export of oil from the region.
4. To find a solution for North-South relations and place the Middle East countries in a new regional structure so as to create a balance in relations, as a result of the view that the factor requiring an organizational restructuring in the region is the crisis-ridden nature of the Middle East.

At any rate, all facts point to the formation of a new system to crush popular uprisings throughout the world. In these circumstances, all weapons that can be used against the intentions and objectives of imperialism must be assessed as soon as possible. Certainly if the Islamic Republic's weapons are not just confined to the United Nations but have a broader international dimension, they will be more effective in showing the arrogant that deprived and oppressed countries have a right to live.

The formation of a new regional organization is necessary. As for the role the Islamic Republic can play and what our national and Islamic interests will be, this is something that must be studied in a serious and timely manner.

Editorial Views State's 'Outstanding' Position

NC1010124490 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 26 Sep 90 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "Iran's Outstanding Position"]

[Text] Western analysts state that the Persian Gulf crisis has made Iran's position on the international scene to stand out spectacularly. By turning a blind eye to the realities of eight years of sacred defense and the Islamic Republic's resistance to the world powers, Western propaganda says that Iran is the only country that benefitted both politically and economically from the Persian Gulf crisis.

The Westerners analyze and assess world events with a materialistic outlook and they scrutinize only the surface of things. This approach is the natural outcome of the West's materialistic culture.

The fact that Iran's important position has emerged under the current circumstances is only the surface of the issue. But the truth is that the victory of the revolution and the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran had its impact on the world—and it was from that moment that its position altered, and it assumed an outstanding place in the world. If this were not so, then the powers of the world would not have done their best to confront Iran and the Islamic Revolution for nearly 12

years, and they would not have based their policy and propaganda on opposition with the Islamic system.

Iran is indebted to the Islamic Revolution for its position today. It was this revolution that gave it strength and steadfastness in confronting the world of arrogance. There is no country in the world that has been able to tolerate the heavy pressures of world arrogance for 12 years and to have continued to stand strongly on the scene.

If today Iran has turned the world's attention to it, it is because of the respect that it has gained during the past decade and because its people displayed the extent of their Islamic faith. And it is this that has inspired the world with awe and terrified the world powers.

Iran's current position has not become outstanding because the East and the West wanted it to become so. Iran's position became outstanding due to its confrontation with the East, the West, and the bullies of the world. Today all those people, who until yesterday tried in every way that they could to mar the face of the Islamic Republic of Iran and to show that it is isolated, have lined up in front of the country's gates and are waiting their turn to apologize and to beg for relations with Islamic Iran.

Iran's outstanding position is the outcome of more than a decade of resistance before the world of force and arrogance, and we should never forget this important point if we want to maintain this position.

Comment on Regional Coordination To Solve Crisis

NC1610152390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0608 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Political commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Excerpts] The qualitative and quantitative increase in the American military presence in the region in general and and in Saudi Arabia in particular has resulted in an increase in the number of accidents among the American miltary personnel as well. These accidents manifest the extensive, careless, and haphazard presence of Washington which has turned Iraq's aggression against Kuwait a pretext for establishing its arrogant diktat in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

The United States has adopted such an independent and monopolistic stand in consolidating its political, military, and economic interests in the region that it has limited the arena for its West European allies. This is why the French foreign minister recently announced that if the United States adopts a unilateral decision to attack Iraq, France will not follow suit. Later in his remarks, the French Foreign Minister said that Paris will not participate in the attack against Iraq unless the UN Security Council endorses such an attack.

France's stand shows that the United States is acting in an extremely monopolistic way in its regional military presence. The great size of Washington's regional military force is in itself proof of this. The United States intends to exploit the situation created in the Persian Gulf by Iraq's attack against Kuwait as much as possible to consolidate its regional strength, and it wants West Europe's full support. But the West European countries are not satisfied with Washington's monopolistic stand, and France's recent stand can be viewed within this context.

At any rate, the extensive presence of American military personnel in the region—a presence which is responsible for the increased number of accidents—speaks of an exacerbation of the situation which increases daily. As the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly stated, this extensive military presence not only fails to establish security in this sensitive area, but further exacerbates the tension. Thus, the best formula for overcoming the crisis is the simultaneous withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and of Western forces from the region so that the way is paved for overcoming the crisis and for solving the problems which have arisen.

Today, it is a proven fact that the Americans' intention behind this presence is merely to safeguard their own interests and that establishing security to benefit the regional countries and nations is not their major objective. American officials have repeatedly said that it is Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's oil that is important to them and not those countries' system of rule.

Thus, the regional countries should, as the Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly reiterated, coordinate their steps toward making the simultaneous withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and of the West from the area and the establishment of regional security by the regional countries without the presence of foreign forces their major political objective.

Commentary on Possible Military Solution in Gulf

NC1610164690 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Oct 90 pp 28, 26

[Gholamreza Eslami commentary: "The Persian Gulf Crisis: A Military Solution?"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Following the political developments of the past few days, it seems that the Westerners have ultimately become convinced that the possibility of the time factor and the tightening of economic and UN sanctions' inflicting pressure on Iraq and forcing it to give in to the world's demand for its withdrawal from Kuwait is more like a mirage, and that the more the situation is uselessly prolonged and protracted, the more it could turn into an element leading to the gradual disappearance of Kuwait's national identity.

Moreover, America has probably also reached the conclusion that Iraq's propaganda allegations of food shortages and pressures from the sanctions could be mostly a deceitful Iraqi political maneuver aimed at giving the

West false hopes that these sanctions have been effective. This could create a deeper schism among America's Western allies to the benefit of Europe's conservative factions who could, in turn, make America avoid a military confrontation and, ultimately, give Iraq more time to consolidate its political positions in Kuwait.

For the 50 years that America has been involved in world conflicts since World War II, it has lacked that something which is known as political legality. And in all international conflicts, despite its undisputed military strength, it has had to face world public opinion. Now, for probably the first time and one step away from an extremely dangerous military involvement, it is facing significant military limitations and problems. But at the same time, from a political point of view, it is enjoying unprecedented international political and psychological support from the world's comprehensive condemnation of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. By making favorable use of this opportunity, America has not only approached its strategic objectives in the region, it has painted the world a picture of its world-devouring system and its black record as the biggest torchbearer and leader in the defense of nations vis-a-vis aggression and as the largest guarantor of peace and freedom. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, another difficulty America faces, the Islamic Republic's regional policies, remains unsolved. From America's point of view, the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Britain and Iran means that America's most devoted NATO ally has opened a more trustworthy door to Iran for the West, which will help convince Iran to show more flexibility in its political stands on the crisis, thereby benefitting the West in the region. [passage omitted]

Facts show that currently America and its allies are not willing to become involved in any way in a political confrontation with the Islamic Republic—even if Iran violates the sanctions. Actually, since the outset of the Kuwaiti crisis, the West has constantly tried to show restraint toward the Islamic Republic's explicit and obvious condemnation of the West's regional military presence and even toward the powerful words of the revolution's leader. By avoiding comment on these views, they have refrained from adopting any official stand. This shows that America is trying to refrain from provoking Iran further, and, while trying to convey its views through its Western and regional allies, trying to direct Iran's policies toward world and international support for American policies on the current crisis. Meanwhile, it has postponed the assessment of practical ways to reach an understanding or improve political relations with Iran until after the crisis has ended, when America and the West will be speaking from a superior political position. [passage omitted]

As for the Iraqi leaders, they have realized that their last weapon if a conflict breaks out will be forcing Israel to participate in the West's military aggression against Iraq. If this happens and the war is extended, America may be faced with a difficult situation as far as a military solution of the crisis. This is because Israel's entry into the scene—which could become inevitable after the first strong Iraqi aggression against it—would influence the region's political and psychological conditions for a conflict and would ultimately turn into a general mobilization against Israel, thus destroying all of America's hopes for the Kuwaitization of the crisis. With the Israelization of the war, the Islamic Republic's anti-Zionist character—at least from the political aspect—would urge it not to spare any efforts in carrying out its natural duties and its committment to the holy ideals of the Islamic ummah. It is actually its profound understanding of all these factors that makes America insist that Israel show restraint even in the case of an Iraqi aggression and lets America take the necessary steps to answer Iraq's attack.

The outcome of the crisis is something we will have to wait to see. But from now on, one can serioulsy see that, if a war breaks out, Israel will become America's Achilles' heel.

Editorial Says Saudis 'Revise' Attitude

NC1210174590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Riyadh Leaders Face Up to New Situation"]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with his Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal on the sidelines of the 45th U.N. General Assembly meeting in New York this week. Political circles in the region consider the meeting, one of the few held between high ranking officials of Iran and Saudi Arabia since the 1987 massacre of Iranian pilgrims by the Riyadh regime, as being of great importance, especially as the Persian Gulf crisis, sparked by Iraq's August 2 invasion of Kuwait, still remains an ambigious dilemma.

Although Iran and Saudi Arabia do not have diplomatic relations, Sa'ud al-Faysal has expressed hope that his country would host Iranian pilgrims during the next year's pilgrimage. These statements are not something new. Soon after the bloody Friday in Mecca and willingness to host Iranian pilgrims through countries such as Oman and Pakistan, acting as mediators between Tehran and Riyadh. [sentence as published] But during the talks the Saudis usually resorted to procrastinations and kept their final response until the last days. Then, they announced relatively stringent conditions for the participation of Iranian pilgrims in Hajj rituals when there was little time for Iran to send the pilgrims.

Saudi Arabia, by resorting to such measures, was in fact trying to bar Iranian pilgrims from the Hajj rituals on the one hand and to portray itself as flexible in the world of Islam, on the other. Could it be the Saudis are planning to buy time this time?

The recent developments in the Persian Gulf have apparently forced the Saudis to basically revise their

attitudes towards relations with Iran. They have realized very well that the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council cannot be relied on from a military point of view despite the publicities made about it in recent years.

Iraq, Saudi Arabia's ally in the 1980s, is now seen as a great danger for Riyadh.

In the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, its lone-riding role has much diminished in recent months. And it must be known that the presence of foreign forces on its soil cannot last for a long time. It is such circumstances that Riyadh leaders feel that their rapprochment with Iran will be in their interests.

Anyway, the recent talks between Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Saudi counterpart Sa'ud al-Faysal pave the way for resumption of usual ties between the two countries.

However, the relations should be based on mutual interest and not on the advice from this or that side as was the case in the past.

We expect that Saudis would adopt an independent policy the way the Islamic Republic is following since 1979 after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

Hurd's Remarks Seen as Attempt To Rescue Israel

LD1610205590 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] The British foreign secretary [Douglas Hurd] announced in Cairo yesterday that, in the event Israel did not accept the probe team assigned by the UN secretary general it would be committing a mistake. Following the approval of the UN Security Council Resolution 672, which has condemned the Zionist regime for the Palestinians' massacre, the UN secretary general has been instructed to send a probe team to Jerusalem. But the Zionist regime's officials have refused to accept this team. Reports from Cairo say that the British foreign secretary, who is currently in Egypt in order to meet its officials, in a warning to Israel yesterday asked the Tel Aviv regime to cooperate with the UN team and avail this opportunity for explaining the factors that led to the foul, violent incident. (?In effect) Douglas Hurd's warning to Israel has found significance because Britain and America have discerned that the recent crime of the Israeli security forces in crushing the Palestinians has had an extraordinary reaction among the world's public opinion, thus making it still more difficult for the Zionists to evade this pressure. Hence even the approval of the Resolution 672 also enjoys some special aspects. This resolution which was approved for the first time without encountering a U.S. veto, (?centers) this suspicion that under present circumstances which of the factions will benefit from its ratification. In this connection, may individuals believe that in view of the Zionists' recent crime and the suppressive act of the Israeli troops against the Palestinians, coupled with the public opinion and feelings aroused at regional and international levels, there was expected that the UN Security Council will have a balanced approach towards this incident. Therefore, it seems that approval of this resolution, prior to bringing any benefits to the Palestinians, will enable America, Britain, and the reactionary regimes of the region to justify their own presence in the region and also remain immune from any adverse effects of the public opinion. The reason is that the history of Israel's ties with Britain and America since the very inception of that regime until present, confirms the point that the Zionists have always enjoyed cooperation from America and Britain in all spheres and that these two countries can now relieve themselves of the part which they have played in the course of the Zionist regime's savage and suppressive measures. The comments made by the British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd the other day also indicate that his suggestions increasingly focus the point that efforts are being made in this way to find a way for rescuing the Zionist regime.

Editorial Comments on Al-Asad Visit

PM1710130090 Tehran KEYHAN HAVAI in Persian 3 Oct 90 p 22

[Editorial: "Iran, Syria viewpoints getting closer."]

[Text] Last week's visit to Iran by Syria's president Hafiz al-Asad and his meetings with leaders of the Islamic Republic have been regarded as highly important in international political circles and have gained much attention. This visit has been regarded as important for several reasons. First, it is taking place during a time of one of the greatest crises in the Persian Gulf, and the position taken by both Iran and Syria, their coordination or lack of coordination could have deep and direct effects on a crisis which has placed the Persian Gulf on the brink of a military confrontation. In addition to this the visit is important in terms of the relations between Tehran and Damascus which leaders of both countries have always termed as "strategic." This is especially important since in the last few months there have been some major changes in regional relations including the better relations between Iran and Iraq and the progress of peace between them.

It appears that bilateral talks covered three subjects:

1. The crisis in the Persian Gulf: The occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, and the widespread deployment of Western troops in the region.
2. The issue of Lebanon.
3. Bilateral ties.

It seems, from comments made by both presidents and other officials involved from both countries that the bilateral ties in terms of cultural, scientific, economic relations and so forth were discussed independently of the other two subjects and that there have been provisions made for the expansion. But the other two main topics were to a certain extent linked in the discussions.

Tehran and Damascus entered discussions on the Persian Gulf with two different points of view with regard to

the current crisis. The Islamic Republic, especially after the remarks made by Ayatollah Khamene'i, while condemning the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, asking for it to end, aimed the tip of its arrow at the United States. This went so far as to call the struggle against U.S. troops in the region as a "holy war" and those lost in it as "martyrs." Iran considers Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to be only an excuse for the Westerners to station their troops in the region. This is why, independent of the issue of Saddam's aggression, it is asking for their departure. Syria, meanwhile considers the Iraqi aggression as the reason for the presence of Western troops in the Persian Gulf. Based on this, in order to get rid of the effect—the Western troops—it considers that the cause, occupation of Kuwait, must be removed as a first step. It considers these two things as being linked, which is why it has directed its attacks against Baghdad.

Based on this principle, Iran supports a regional solution to get rid of Saddam's aggression against Kuwait. Syria mainly supports an international solution with a Western presence, and at the very least, quite opposite of the Islamic Republic, it is indifferent to such a solution.

It was with this background that Iran and Syria entered into talks about the Persian Gulf crisis. There were two rounds of formal talks between the two presidents plus at least 10 hours of informal discussions as well as one visit between Mr. Hafiz al-Asad and Ayatollah Khamene'i which indicated the sensitivity of both sides with regard to the issue at hand which also took more time than was at first allocated.

Despite this, the fact that the final communique does not include a single solution or a definite result with regard to the current regional crisis, it indicates that the two sides have not reached a completely common viewpoint. At the same time the communique indicates that the two sides are now closer in their views! The tone of the communique attacks Iraq more than it does the United States and the West which shows that Iran has gone closer to Syria's point of view; the suggestion that there should be a "regional security system" with the participation of only regional forces, makes it clear Syria is getting closer to Tehran.

Keeping in mind the trip made to Damascus by James Baker, the U.S. Secretary of State, before al-Asad's trip to Iran as well as contacts between conservative Arab leaders, including that of Saudi Arabia, with the Syrian president, it seems that Hafiz al-Asad was the bearer of their viewpoints to Iran as well as carrying Iran's views back to them. Westerners and conservative Arabs, following Ayatollah Khamene'i's remarks against the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf were fearful that Tehran would join alongside Baghdad. Therefore it is possible that al-Asad's trip could have been made to ensure Arabs and the Westerners that this would not happen. It appears that such an assurance has been given.

With regard to Lebanon it is possible that the two countries, keeping in mind better relations between Syria and Iran with the West, as well the recent developments in the Persian Gulf, have agreed to the release of some Western hostages. Tehran's agreement with such a thing could help Syria end the war between Amal and Hizballah if Syria calls on its allies Amal to show more restraint.

RESALAT Condemns Deputies' Remarks

NC1410204790 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 1 Oct 90 p 2

[Political commentary: "For Want of a Reputation for Piety"]

[Text] The esteemed jurisconsults of the Council of Guardians have performed the task delegated to them by the leadership of the Council of Experts very well. They had to verify, investigate, and announce their opinions on the knowledge, aptitude, and reputation for piety of those who had applied as candidates for the Council of Experts. For this purpose the Council of Guardians held an oral and written examination for those candidates whose ejtehad [proficiency in jurisprudence] was not very definite. Some of those invited to take the examination did not participate, and the Council of Guardians did not include their names on the list of the endorsed candidates. Those who were invited to take the examination and did not do so, and those who did participate but did not pass included members of the Qom Seminarians' Association, the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez Association of Tehran, and candidates favored by both associations. This should put to rest all the rabble-rousers' hollow accusations of the Council of Guardians and Council of Experts' partiality to particular factions.

The Council of Guardians did not reach its decision merely because some individuals had "a reputation for piety," as Qom deputy Mr. Khalkhali, who considers himself one of them, implied in his pre-agenda speech at yesterday's Islamic Majles session.

Mr. Khalkhali, why do you expect that the Council of Guardians will make a favorable decision about you though you do not have a reputation for piety? Regardless of your judicial dossier and your 70 million toman house, which does not concern us, if one were merely to glance at your letters and remarks during the period of Bani-Sadr, which appeared in the newspapers, and your subsequent speeches and comments in the Islamic Majlis, at gatherings, and in the mosques, one would unfortunately conclude that you do not have a "reputation for piety."

It is not even necessary to search the archives or to present much evidence; your speech yesterday is very strong and adequate proof. First you state that a few weeks ago you had a meeting with the eminent leader; then you claim that certain facts are prevented from reaching the leader. What do you expect the people to believe?

Was not the Council of Guardians endorsed by his eminence the imam, and has it not been endorsed by the eminent leader? If this stirring up the air against the

Council of Guardians is not tantamount to opposition to the Velayat-e Faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult], then what is it?

Do you seriously think that after your impudence toward the Velayat-e Faqih—this great crime that you have committed—the people will think you are pious? Should the Majles deputies continue to remain silent before you? Should the people of Qom also keep quiet about your slanderous remarks? Does not the judicial apparatus have an obligation when faced with your defamatory conduct and audacity?

It may not be a bad idea for you to take a second look at your remarks. If the path to penitence is open, then repent. Otherwise, take heed that God has ordained retribution for the oppressors.

Yesterday, Tehran deputy Mr. Duzduzani read an incomplete statement, just as Mr. Khalkhali did, and demanded that the deputies sign below it. Where does Mr. Duzduzani think he is going? Is he not able to learn from past lessons? Have things reached a point that the deputies can incite people against the Council of Guardians and draw up lists of signatures? Instead of asking the people to participate in the Council of Experts elections wholeheartedly, why are attempts are being made to create doubts against the hallowed organizations and malign them by saying that these are "selections" not elections, and thus prevent the people from casting votes?

Mr. Duzduzani, is this your view of the sacred system of the Islamic Republic which is a source of hope to the Islamic world and all of the oppressed and the most valuable legacy of the great imam when you said, "It is feared that all the gains of the Revolution and the lofty ideals of the imam might be destroyed in the name of jurisprudence and jurisconsults and will be replaced by the American-style and reactionary Islam"?

Are "American-style and reactionary Islam" now governing us, and the great leader and the officials and people silent spectators, while you are the only who is perturbed? Was not your attitude similar to agitation and instigation against the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps when, in the war, the imam said do not interfere, and you replied: You can just tell us to shut up!

Mr. Duzduzani, are only those few people who were not eligible as candidates to the Council of Experts the only faction following the imam's line, and all the rest American-style reactionaries?

Are the majority of the great jurisconsults of the present Council of Experts and the 109 grand scholars of the country whose qualifications have been endorsed for their candidature in the Council of Experts reactionaries?! Woe to your beliefs, your version of Islam, your faith, your kind of adherence to the Velayat [-e Faqih] and to the future consequences of your actions! Just where are you going? [preceding sentence in Arabic]

Paper Denounces Factional Argument in Elections

LD1710111690 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA—The morning daily 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' Wednesday wrote that logic and reasoning of the revolution set the limits for both criticism and freedom of expression. "Therefore", the daily stressed, "violation of these limits at any time or by any individual or faction, is not tolerated."

The article denounced continuation of the ongoing arguments between the "advocates of the two outspoken political factions" (over elections for the Assembly of Experts held on October 8) and urged them not to sacrifice principles for the sake of personal interests. Violators of the limits, the article noted, not only fail to defend the noble Islamic Republic system, but rather destroy it.

It appealed to the disputing factions to come to their senses and contemplate on the question of "who will benefit more from the ongoing arguments?" The daily reiterated that although the act of criticizing is an indisputable right of all masses, one must take into consideration that people attach great value to their sanctities. "People will not tolerate violation of limits by any individual or faction. Those who do not care about the people should fear the wrath of God since God's patience is also limited," noted the article.

Editorial Stresses Importance of Experts' Council

NC0810200590 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Sep 90 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "Regarding the Council of Experts Elections"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] 1. The Council of Experts is the sole center of decisionmaking for the highest position in the system of the Islamic Republic. It is this Council that has the right to express opinions on and to decide the choice of and removal of the leader, as well as to assess his performance. These are matters which have a specific effect on the destiny of the revolution and the system of the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

2. The role of the people in these elections is of immense importance, as in other elections, and is extremely fateful. The larger and more conspicuous the turnout at the polling booths, the greater the credibility of the Council of Experts.

Obviously a Council which is involved in making the most momentous decisions of the country and expressing opinions on the same should have the greatest backing. It is for these reasons that the people have been exhorted to perform their revolutionary obligations and to cast their votes, while the scholars and enlightened ones also are beholden to perform their obligations in providing the necessary guidance to motivate and encourage the people to participate in the elections.

3. Despite the differences of opinion which could arise over qualifications or for any other reason, the sanctity and credibility of the Council of Experts is what is important and should be upheld at all costs. [passage omitted]

*Paper Views Discontent With Assembly of Experts

90AS0470L London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 12

[Text] While investigating the competency of those registered for membership in the Assembly of Experts continues in the Council of Guardians, a quarrel has begun in the Qom theological center. Many of the clerics are afraid that the Council of Guardians will not approve their competence and have put pressure on the religious jurists and teachers of the Qom theological center to recommend their competence to the Council of Guardians as a certain issue. The society of teachers of the Qom theological center, which has become tired of the frequent visits, has warned the Council of Guardians in a letter in advance to watch such actions, and if a teacher from the center writes a letter under pressure, not to heed it.

In the elections for the first Assembly of Experts it was customary for the competency of an applicant to be verified by a religious jurist or a teacher at a theological center, especially the Qom theological center, unless the "leader" exceptionally verifies the competency of an applicant.

But Khamene'i, who has been elected by the religious jurists of the Council of Guardians, does not find it necessary to verify the competency of anyone personally. In response to the attacks and protests of those who are unhappy with the new ratification of the Assembly of Experts, he said recently: "The ratifications of the Assembly of Experts are proper in every respect, and when a matter is ratified, even the opponents must defend it."

Observers of the scene believe that in the course of preparing and holding the elections for the Assembly of Experts, 'Ali Khamene'i will find two new opposing groups: first, the group whose competency is not verified in the Council of Guardians, and then another group of those who are defeated in the elections.

It is interesting that the future Assembly of Experts will continue to have 83 members, whereas nearly 3,000 people have registered to become representatives.

*Shortage of Bread, Price Increase Worsen

90AS0470R London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] The disorder with regard to the situation of bread in Tehran has created new problems for the people. Since two months ago in Tehran, there has been no set rate for bread, and the government is unable to determine a price which will satisfy both the people and the bakers.

The people complain of high prices, low quality and improper baking of bread, and the bakers complain about the low quality of flour given to them by the government, high wages, and other increasing expenditures.

The increase in the price of bread in the past two months has been made by the owners of bakeries. The Lavash bakers have increased the price from 10 rials to 15 rials per loaf and the Sangak bakers sell a loaf for 30 rials instead of 20 rials. At the same time, the weight and quality of bread remains unchanged.

The regime of the Islamic Republic avoids any attempt to stabilize the price of bread, because it knows that bakers, with the increase in other living expenses, must pay more money to continue their trade. If they are to sell bread at the previous prices, they will without doubt suffer losses. A bakery worker, who occasionally works up to 16 hours a day, receives 4,000-5,000 rials in wages. Last week, many bakers had to increase the wages of their workers by up to 1,000 rials per day. Increases in rental fees and the lack of equipment to prevent waste are also among the problems of the bakers. In the meantime, the people of Tehran, particularly the poor and low-income classes, whose main food is bread, must tolerate such high prices, despite their fixed wages or salaries, and have begun to complain about the bad quality and high prices of bread. In many areas of south and east Tehran, there are quarrels and fights every day.

While the chaos with regard to the situation of bread in Tehran rages on, the government of Argentina, one of the major suppliers of wheat to Iran, has refused to sell wheat to the regime of the Islamic Republic.

The Argentines are asking $80 for a ton of wheat, but the Islamic regime refuses to pay this price and does not want to pay more than $70 for a ton of wheat.

At the present time, nearly 5 million tons of wheat are imported annually, which is seven times the amount of wheat imported before the Islamic revolution. For this amount of wheat to be imported, $400 million must be paid every year.

Recently, the U.S. WALL STREET JOURNAL wrote that U.S. Agriculture Department officials have become suspicious about the major purchase of wheat by the regime of the Islamic Republic and suspect the regime of the Islamic Republic of purchasing the additional wheat to deliver to Iraq.

It is predicted in Tehran that with the refusal of the government of Argentina to sell wheat to the Islamic Republic, the situation of bread in Iran will be very bad.

*Increase in Petrochemical Products Reported

90AS0470Q London KEYHAN in Persian 27 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] The present crisis in the Persian Gulf region and the continuation of the military presence of the Western countries in Saudi Arabia has attracted customers in the world markets to the petrochemical products of the Islamic Republic. Engineer Rahgozar, the director general of the National Iranian Oil Company, announced

some time ago that the increase in the price of oil in the world and the Persian Gulf crisis have increased the price of petrochemical products, and due to the existing situation in the region, the world market has its eyes on Iranian products.

The director general of the national oil company pointed out that whereas during the war with Iraq, the industrial countries purchased Iranian petrochemical products at five percent below the going rate, now the buyers of such products are prepared to pay up to an additional five percent for the products in question.

Engineer Rahgozar told reporters that the production of Iranian petrochemical products during the first six months of this year increased by about 50 percent compared to a similar period in 1368 [21 March 1989-20 March 1990]. Announcing that at the present time, the warehouses of the petrochemical company are full of products consumed in the world market, he pointed out that due to transportation problems, the company is unable to distribute its products on time.

Pakistan

Army May Assist in Law Enforcement for Election

BK1710164490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has directed the provincial governments to extend all possible help to the Election Commission to hold elections in a free, fair and impartial manner. He gave the directive in a letter to the governors and the chief ministers. The letter was circulated among newsmen at a news conference by the prime minister's special assistant Kamal Azfar in Islamabad today. The president said he has the responsibility of holding elections and he is confident that the governors and the armed forces will carry out his commitment to the nation of holding free, fair and impartial elections through the Election Commission. He said that we should respect the political viewpoints of all political parties and leaders and should be polite to them. However, he warned that any attempt by any quarter to create an issue of law and order or to intervene in the process of peaceful elections will not be tolerated. He hoped that the law enforcement agencies will ensure peace and tranquillity during the election and thereafter. The president said that, if necessary, the armed forces will keep themselves appropriately ready to assist the law enforcement agencies. Kamal Azfar told newsmen that various international observer teams are coming to Pakistan to review the elections.

Bhutto Opponents Hint at Military Support

BK1710074890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0709 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Rawalpindi, Pakistan, Oct 17 (AFP)—Candidates running against ousted Premier Benazir Bhutto in the October 24 general elections have started hinting broadly that they have the tacit support of Pakistan's powerful military. Secret nods or not, the Bhutto opponents apparently hope to convince the electorate, wavering independent candidates and journalists, that a vote for them would be to go with the strength.

"There is no problem with the military," 41-year-old industrialist Mian Nawaz Sharif, emerging as the main rival to Ms. Bhutto, said here in an interview.

"It is the desire not only of the military but of every Pakistani today ... that the military play hardly any role in the politics of the country ... that it does its own job.

"They (the military) would like to see the country getting out of its problems," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Monday, when queried on the widespread belief here that only a candidate tacitly endorsed by the military will be able to take over as prime minister after the polls.

Ms. Bhutto, who has been careful not to repeat her initial accusation that the military colluded with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in her abrupt ouster on August 6 after 20 months in office, says she feels the military must respect the outcome of the polls if she wins.

"There is a constitution and the people are sovereign," Ms. Bhutto, 37, said in an interview with AFP in her hometown Larkana Sunday. "The people are sovereign and I think everyone must respect the will of the people in a responsible manner."

The military itself, which has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 43 years since independence, has said little, leaving supporters of candidates and sometimes candidates themselves guessing and hinting at tacit support. But almost to a man Pakistanis and diplomats here do not see the military standing by if they see the election results as dividing or further destablising an already polarised electorate.

It is no secret that the 600,000 strong Pakistani military, much like their counterparts in Turkey and Indonesia, see the stability and unity of the country as paramount and themselves as the only ones that can preserve it if the politicians can not. The atmosphere accompanying this preconception has led close aides of interim Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, 58, to hint—always off the record—that their man, partly because he is not seen as a political heavyweight, is the obvious military favorite.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif, they argue, is so powerfully identified with the northern state of Punjab, and Ms. Bhutto with her home province of Sindh, that the victory of either could strain the national fabric of the country, as could a close result.

General Mirza Aslam Beg, the greying military commander whose words and actions are followed more closely by political observers here than those of the candidates themselves, gave a public assurance Tuesday

that "Insha Allah" (God willing) an elected government would take over after the October 24 elections.

But Gen. Beg told a meeting of military commanders in the Afghan border city of Quetta that Pakistan would not tolerate interference from outsiders in the election, adding that Pakistanis were "well versed in democracy and needed no outside guidance."

To many who pored over Gen. Beg's comments, it was a last-minute hint in favor of the alliance opposing the return to power of Ms. Bhutto, who is widely blamed here, rightly or wrongly, for pressuring U.S. legislators into threatening to cut military aid to Pakistan over its nuclear policy. Others, citing the military's hitherto public neutrality in the campaign, took it more on face value, not as a tilt to one party or the other but as a warning to Washington that it could not publicly dictate to Islamabad, or to the Army.

Educational Institutions To Close 20-28 Oct

BK1710160290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] The Ministry of Education has announced that all educational institutions of the federal government in the country, including schools and colleges, will remain closed from 20-28 October due to coming general elections. They will reopen on 29 October.

Islamabad Reports New Charges Against Bhutto

BK1710160690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Oct 90

[Text] Two more references against former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto were filed on behalf of the president at the special court of Justice Mohammad Amir Malik in Lahore today. These references relate to misuse of millions of rupees of Secret Service Fund and the use of Pakistan Air Force and Pakistan International Airlines planes to transport National Assembly members during the no-confidence motion in the parliament. The court has set Saturday [20 October] for preliminary investigations into the new references.

Supreme Court Empowered To Transfer Cases

BK1610102090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The president has promulgated the parliament and provincial assemblies disqualification from membership amendment ordinance 1990 empowering the Supreme Court to transfer a case from one special court to another provided the court was satisfied that it is appropriate to do so for the convenience of the parties or witnesses or to meet legal requirements. It also provides an appeal against any finding, decision or final order of the special court. The new ordinance amends the parliament and provincial assemblies disqualification from membership order 1977 and repeals the holders of representative offices prevention of misconduct act 1976 and the parliament and provincial assemblies disqualification from membership act 1976.

58,000 Pakistanis Return Home by 10 Oct

BK1310102090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] According to emergency relief cell of the cabinet division, over 58,000 Pakistanis have reached home by air, land and sea routes by Wednesday [10 October] last. Foreign nationals belonging to India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Philippines are also reaching Taftan border by cars and buses in small groups for transit through Pakistan.

Buses To Repatriate Nationals From Kuwait, Iraq

BK1610120890 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Oct 90

[Text] The Pakistan mission in Baghdad is arranging buses for Pakistanis in Kuwait and Iraq affected by the situation in the Gulf to bring them home. These buses will start plying from Saturday [20 October] until the 26th of this month. The mission has advised the stranded Pakistanis to contact Pakistani officials in Kuwait. The buses will leave for Pakistan from Pakistani school Salamia.

Gulf Crisis Impact on India, Pakistan Viewed

BK1610083290 Lahore THE NATION in English 15 Oct 90 p 2

[Text] India is to dramatically slash its consumption of oil prior to seeking a new loan from the IMF, according to its Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate. The target cut is 15 percent and the expected increase in the prices of petrol and oil products is to be substantial. This perhaps is the first time that the Indians have succumbed to IMF pressure. In order to make fiscal discipline less controversial and at the same time being seen to take an independent economic decision Mr Dandavate stated: 'We don't want to be dictated to by conditionality but we want to be practical. We, on our own, will introduce fiscal discipline. We know the crisis, the hard options.' The crisis is simple: if oil price averages 25 dollars a barrel next year then India would require an extra 2.5 billion dollars—money that could be supplied by the IMF through the Structural Adjustment Facility. Thus the Gulf crisis is seen to have a direct bearing on the economy of India. It must be remembered that loss of exports to Iraq and Kuwait would require the Indians to get loans for balance of payment support as well.

Pakistan, with a much higher per capita debt than India, would naturally experience a harder fiscal regime whose main sufferers are likely to be the poor. So far the election campaign of the caretakers has revolved around not taking any unpopular decisions like raising the price of oil. At the same time, the IMF, already having made a deal with Ms. Bhutto's government, is waiting for the results of the elections to exert pressure on the new

government to follow its conditionalities laid out earlier this year, and, to further tighten its fiscal belt as a result of the Gulf crisis. Whoever comes to power after October 24 will have no manoeuvrability as far as economic policies are concerned—a fact which makes the economic manifestos of the parties meaningless.

PRC Armor Recovery Vehicle Project Completed

BK1510133290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 15 Oct 90

[Text] A project to manufacture armor recovery vehicle has been completed in collaboration with the People's Republic of China. Engineers and technicians of Heavy Rebuild Factory worked day and night along with the Chinese experts to complete the assignment in phases.

British Naval Chief Arrives on Official Visit

Received by Admiral Malik

BK1210154590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Oct 90

[Text] The British chief of Naval staff and first sea lord, Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, arrived in Rawalpindi this evening on a four-day official visit to Pakistan. He was received at the airport by Naval Chief Admiral Yasturual Haq Malik.

Meets President, Navy Chief

BK1310133090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 13 Oct 90

[Text] The visiting first sea lord and chief of the British naval staff, Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, called on the president, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in Islamabad today and discussed with him matters relating to bilateral cooperation, particularly between the navies of the two countries. They also exchanged views on the Gulf situation and underscored the need to effectively implement UN resolutions on the crisis. Earlier, the British naval chief had a meeting with the chief of the naval staff, Admiral Yasturul Haq Malik, at the naval headquarters.

Editorial Denounces U.S. Policy on Aid

BK1310132190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Oct 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Enough is enough!"]

[Text] A news item yesterday morning came as a rude shock to people in this country. It read, "A majority of the United States Senators has forewarned that the US and Pakistan relationship will take an inevitable and severe turn for the worse if all politicians, including Benazir Bhutto, are not allowed to participate in the upcoming elections in Pakistan." Of all the nerve! Very candidly, the way this country applies its laws is nobody's business but its own. Having an independent policy as it does, this paper holds no brief either for the Pakistan People's Party or the IJI [Islamic Democratic Alliance], but both these parties are the two major contenders for top honours in the forthcoming elections, and it is for the courts of Pakistan to decide on the eligibility of their candidates, and for the people of Pakistan on whom to vote into power. That is what election laws and elections are all about, and the sooner the US realises we are capable of conducting our own affairs, the better. We have tried to convey this to our 'most allied ally' on more than one occasion, but the message just does not seem to get across. On the contrary, it has been becoming increasingly clear of late that the US is very prone to interfering in the internal affairs of those countries to whom it has been extending economic or military aid, or both.

As far as Pakistan is concerned, the interest of the US in this country has centred round our peaceful nuclear programme, which it has always insisted on dubbing an effort to acquire nuclear capability for purposes other than peaceful. It has ultimately invoked the Symington Amendment against this country and prevented President Bush from certifying that we do not possess the capability of producing a nuclear weapon. In simpler terms, an 'Islamic bomb.' Rather belatedly, our American friends, headed by Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan wrote to President Bush on October 8 last, "expressing their concern over the dismissal of Prime Minister Bhutto's democratically elected government in Pakistan." Does this mean that the signatories to the letter feel Ms Bhutto can abandon this country's efforts to acquire a peaceful nuclear capability, should she return to power? Fettered as she is by a 'blowing hot, blowing cold' popularity, this will be a tall if not impossible order for her. With the people of Pakistan having such definite views on the issue, it would, indeed, be impossible for any government to give concrete shape to the desires of the US. In view of this, may we suggest that the US take Pakistan at its word about its nuclear programme and desist from stopping aid to this country, if for nothing else, turning the screw? Enough is enough, and that is the only way in which the two countries can remain true allies. The US, however, is forcing the issue, and the answer may not be to its liking.

Hekmatyar Statement Criticizes Western Propaganda

BK1610125690 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 16 Oct 90 p 7

[Text] Peshawar, Oct. 15—Engineer Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, chief of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan [HIA] has taken strong exception to the false, fabricated and propaganda campaign of the Western agencies against the joint military-plan of the Mujahidin to attack Kabul. He said, this reveals the true faces of the United States and her allies as to how much they are opposed to the self-determination of the Afghan nation. He vehemently condemned the false and concocted stories published by WASHINGTON POST and aired by VOA [Voice of America] Sunday [7 October] morning.

Afghan News Agency quoting Hikmatyar as saying in a statement here Sunday said "only those people will oppose the joint attack of Mujahidin against the Kabul regime who receive American directives and succumb to the choices of the two superpowers in resolving the Afghan issue. "The United States of America is opposed to Mujahidin military plan because it will break the present political stalemate", Najib will be removed and Mujahidin will rule over Afghanistan," Hikmatyar remarked.

He said "America never wanted to see the establishment of Mujhahidin government in Afghanistan and instead it is interested in coalition government." For that reason it has launched a massive propaganda against the joint strategy of Mujahidin and trying to bring Zahir Shah, communists and other so-called Mujahidin in coalition in Afghanistan, he added.

Hikmatyar observed that it is because of this reason that the United States, Britain and their stooges in collaboration with the Soviet Union and Kabul regime have launched a propaganda campaign against the joint plan of the Mujahidin. America, he alleged, is using her stooges, comprising persons being feeded on monthly basis, against this joint strategy. He said, only those people will oppose a military uprising against. Najib and their surrender to Mujahidin on Kabul who want to maintain the present political stalemate, prolong the rule of Najib, perpetuate war in Afghanistan and provide a chance to Moscow and Washington to impose a government of their choice on the Afghan nation. But all sincere Mujahidin who feel themselves responsible to serve the national and Islamic cause will fully support the joint programme irrespective of the statements of the American stooges, he added.

The HIA chief maintained that all the Mujahidin feel the necessity of the joint military plan and they do support it and will practically implement it.

Sri Lanka

Troops Capture Rebel-Held Northern Area

Casualties on Both Sides

BK1810061090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0437 GMT 18 Oct 90

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (AFP)—Government troops backed by Air Force helicopter gunships captured a rebel-held area in northern Sri Lanka as fierce fighting there killed at least four soldiers and wounded a dozen others, officials said Thursday. A military spokesman here said the Army late Wednesday overran Vasavilan, a well-fortified area of Tamil rebels in the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

The spokesman said that heavy fighting broke out when troops advanced from the main Palaly Air Force base and destroyed bunkers of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in Vasavilan, south of the base. Air Force helicopter gunships strafed rebel positions as the soldiers came under a massive barrage of mortar and small arms fire, which killed four soldiers and injured at least 12 others, military officials said.

The soldiers operating under cover of a blanket curfew in the region, met stiff resistance, officials said, adding that the fresh offensive was aimed at expanding the Army's control in the area. LTTE casualties were not known, but the toll was believed to be more than a dozen killed, officials said, adding that the rebels fled after initially putting up a fight.

Eye-witnesses said several ambulances from the Ratmalana Airport here screamed through a main road late Wednesday. Injured soldiers in the north are normally brought to Ratmalana by the Air Force and then taken to hospitals here in ambulances. The military spokesman said Army soldiers overran many LTTE bunkers but were slowed down due to minefields in the area.

The Tigers had abandoned large stocks of camouflage uniforms and ammunition when they fled Vasavilan, the spokesman added. An official said government troops were now consolidating their position in the sprawling Vasavilan area in Palaly from where rebels have been frequently pounding the air base with mortars.

On Monday the strategic Palaly base came under heavy mortar attack with an Air Force Chinese-built Y12 transport plane narrowly missing a mortar bomb explosion as it taxied for take off. The large base, the military's most important in the northern peninsula, is used for supplying troop reinforcements, arms and ammunition to Army operations in the region and figured prominently when the Army broke a rebel siege on the Jaffna Fort.

The lifting of the fort siege on September 13 was the last major military offensive undertaken against the rebels. The latest thrust is believed to have been launched in a bid to consolidate new ground. The Jaffna Peninsula is teeming with well-armed LTTE cadres who also control large parts of the neighbouring northern districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Vavuniya. Nearly 4,350 people are reported to have died in violence since June 11 in the predominantly Tamil northeast where the Tigers want to set up an independent homeland.

Minister Wijeratne Comments

BK1810092690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0822 GMT 18 Oct 90

["OANA/Pool Item"]

[Text] Colombo, Oct 18 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Sri Lankan security forces yesterday launched a major offensive in Jaffna to capture the leadership of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] and move to Jaffna town. This was announced by the minister of plantation industries and minister of state for defense and cabinet spokesman, Mr. Ranjan Wijeratne, at today's weekly cabinet news briefing held at the Gramodaya Centre in Colombo.

Mr. Wijeratne said the town of Vasavilan had been captured and currently the security forces were involved in taking Kadduwan. The cabinet spokesman said that four soldiers had been killed and 23 injured in the operations at Vasavilan. Half of those wounded received minor injuries.

He said that the bodies of eight terrorists were found after the capture of Vasavilan along with a large quantity of Claymore mines, Johnny mines and uniforms. LTTE bunkers had also been destroyed. Mr. Wijeratne said the LTTE had fired a mortar at the Palaly airbase wounding 20 soldiers.

He said that mopping up operations are on and the eastern sector had been strengthened. Replying a question regarding the Jaffna Hospital, the cabinet spokesman said it was up to the ICRC [International Committee of Red Cross] to have it opened.

In answer to a question about the bombing of civilians by the air force as alleged by the LTTE, Mr. Wijeratne said that this was LTTE propaganda. He said the Sri Lankan security forces were not willing to fight the war, the way the LTTE wanted them to. The LTTE had suffered heavy casualties in the north.

"Tell the LTTE to go fly a kite", Mr. Wijeratne said. Replying a question, Mr. Wijeratne said there was prior information of the LTTE meeting on October four at Vellvettiturai where Anton Balasingham and Yogaratnam Yogi participated. He accepted that action was not taken and this was due to lack of initiative. "I asked the same question from my people. I do not hide the fact," Mr. Wijeratne said.

Asked why the security forces offensive had been launched, on "Deepavali" [Hindu festival of lights] day, Mr. Wijeratne said it was designed so that good will win over evil. The cabinet spokesman also said that the conclusion reached on fundamental rights at a meeting of party leaders, presided by President Ranasinghe Premadasa had been approved by the cabinet yesterday and the details in full will be released at the next briefing.

He said that a special task force comprising nine ministers will be in Trincomalee for one month to smoothen the functions of the administration. Non-government organizations had responded well and were supporting rehabilitation work. All this was consequent to a recent visit of President Premadasa to Trincomalee, Mr. Wijeratne said.

Associated with Mr. Wijeratne at today's cabinet news briefing were the minister of rehabilitation, reconstruction and social welfare, A.M.S. Adikari; the acting minister of state for information, John Amaratunge, the secretary in the Ministry of Defense, General Cyril Ranatunge; the secretary in the Ministry of State For Defense, Air Marshal Walter Fernado; and the presidential advisor on international relations; Bradman Weerakoon.